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Judgment on PSS, CHCC collection lawsuits eyed. PAGE 5
Gunman kills 3 at Kansas City-area Jewish sites. PAGE 14

CUC vacates standby charge proposal

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board unanimously approved yesterday to withdraw the standby charge proposal that's before the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission—a few weeks before the scheduled business meeting of the regulatory agency.

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TAX DEADLINE HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Taxpayers wait for their turn to settle tax liabilities and other related matters at the Division of Revenue and Taxation office in Dandan yesterday, in time for today's deadline for filing the 2013 individual income tax return. As with previous years, many taxpayers rush to file their income tax return on the day of the deadline itself, April 15.

Tinian commission fires back at Dynasty

» Governor may inquire about Tinian situation

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission said it finds it "odd" that Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino is complaining when the commission is "doing our job as effective casino gaming regulators," even as Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday he may inquire about the issue. As of yesterday, there's still no telling whether or not the commission will approve Dynasty's longtime suppliers and persons the casino wants to hire to run the CNMI's only operating casino right now.

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DPS supervisor: 100 percent sure it's Crisostomo's voice in 911 call

» Half of entire CIB also recognized Crisostomo's voice
» Espinola says Romero struggled, died of strangulation
» Crisostomo a DPS confidential informant

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Police detective Elias Q. Saralu testified yesterday that he and half of the detectives who listened to the 911 call that Emerita Romero made on Feb. 5, 2012, recognized the male voice in the recordings as that of Joseph A. Crisostomo's.

"I'm 100 percent sure it's Joseph Crisosto-

See DPS on Page 4

Inos eyes more investments in NMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Besides an expected Saipan casino resort with at least 2,000 guest rooms, the construction of two new hotels on public lands in Marpi and San Antonio and reopening of the former The Palms Resort under the global hotel brand Sheraton, Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday there are other new investments on the horizon. He said these could include a new hotel in Garapan associated with DFS Galleria and another unique tourist attraction from Baldyga Group LLC.

The governor said he met Friday with Guam Visitors Bureau board chair Mark Baldyga, founder and president of Baldyga Group LLC that owns, among others, SandCastle Guam, SandCastle Saipan, and Sea Touch LLC, wherein

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BEFORE THE CW PROGRAM EXPIRES ON DEC. 31, 2014

OPINION METER
This week's poll:
Do you plan to go up Mt. Tapochau this Good Friday?
Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

WORLD

Ukraine's government will send troops to quash a brazen pro-Russia insurgency. ➤ PAGE 16

FOCUS

Rev. Robert Reyes, dubbed the "running priest," campaigns for the poor. ➤ PAGE 17

LIFE & STYLE

"The Hunger Games" earns the prize for best film at the MTV Movie Awards. ➤ PAGE 20

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Local

Hundreds attend Kick Butts & Week of the Young Child

Hundreds of students and their families attended the first-ever joint observance of Kick Butts Day and Week of the Young Child at the Garapan Central Park last Saturday.

The event kicked off at 7:30am for registration followed by the Kick Butts march and parade from the site to the Kristo Rai Church and back.

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Laura Ogumoro was happy with how the event turned out.

"The education, outreach, and preventative efforts achieved at this event were incredibly successful with the participation of schools, childcare providers, teachers, students, and parents," she said.

Ogumoro attributed the success of the event to the collaboration of many agencies and organizations.

"This was the first year that we'd merged Kick Butts and Week of the Young Child and the turnout was a testament to the fact that sharing and pooling our resources is cost-effective and creates better work relations and understanding amongst ourselves and our community," she said.

Healthy food and drinks as well as health services were all provided to the students and families at the event.

Different agencies had concession stands and also provided activities and services. They included the DCCA, Division of Public Health, Community Guidance Center, CNMI Head Start Program, Joeten Kiyu Public Library, CNMI Council for Humanities Mother Read program, Youth Affairs Office, Substance Abuse Prevention and Recovery Coalition, Ayuda Network, Northern Marianas College-CREES, NMC-Area Health Education Center, Commonwealth Cancer Association, and Northern Marianas Islands Volleyball Association.

To ensure that students get to visit all the booths, they were given passports to collect 12 stamps by participating in activities set by the different agencies.

PHOTOS BY JAYSON CAMACHO

William S. Reyes Elementary School students fly high and aim high, saying no to tobacco.

Committee members and community members take a group photo during the first ever Kick Butts and Week of the Young Child.

Green Meadows Daycare Center gets ready to march against tobacco and drugs.

Marianas High School's cheerleading squad.

Students march off with "Be fit don't drink" and "Say no to drug" banners.

Ricky Itibus, substance abuse prevention technician and 2014 Kick Butts coordinator, said that Kick Butts Day is a national day that empowers youth to stand against tobacco. "We do this event to let kids know of healthy alternatives," he added.

"The event is very successful. We had many kids from all the public schools and some from private schools and also some daycare centers joining in. This is also our first time to collaborate with DCCA-DYS and it's a great partnership," Itibus said. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

Members of the CNMI Childcare Provider Association smile brightly as they join the parade.

CNMI Department of Public Health's Immunization Program provided vaccinations at the event.

Activities such as face and body painting were popular with the kids.

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs-Division of Youth Services staff takes pride and joy in celebrating Kick Butts Day and Week of the Young Child.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider join representatives of the Let's Move Marianas campaign for a group photo after yesterday's launching of the "Let's Clean Up Marianas" campaign that combines the promotion of healthy living and a cleaner environment.

From 'Let Move Marianas' to 'Let's Clean Up Marianas'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A "Let's Move Marianas" event with an environmental twist is expected to draw more participants by combining the promotion of healthy living with a cleaner environment. Dubbed as the "Let's Clean Up Marianas" campaign, the CNMI-wide cleanup will be held every quarter starting on April 25 from 3:30pm to 4:30pm.

Amber Lynn Mendiola, Let's Move Marianas campaign coordinator, gave government agency representatives and the governor yesterday an overview of the combined activity and the need to continue promoting a healthy lifestyle among community members.

Let's Move Marianas is a campaign aimed at raising public education and awareness about the epidemic of chronic diseases affecting people and encouraging families to adopt much healthier and more active lifestyles.

It is in line with first lady Michelle Obama's campaign to fight childhood obesity.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in the presence of Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider and Let's Move Marianas Alliance members and representatives, signed a memorandum yesterday supporting the CNMI-wide "Let's Clean Up Marianas."

With the endorsement, the governor approved a one-hour administrative leave for government employees who choose to participate in the quarterly islandwide cleanups.

However, this is conditioned on the following: That the participation is on a voluntary basis and at the discretion of department and agency heads, to ensure that public service is not disrupted; that the one-hour administrative lease is reflected in each participant's weekly timesheet; and that the organizing committee must ensure that each participant is logged in at the beginning and end of each event.

The roster must be provided to the Department of Finance's Payroll Section for verification.

Inos said the Let's Clean Up Marianas is a "great outreach opportunity to promote both a healthier living and a cleaner environment" in the CNMI.

"I am pleased to endorse this effort and encourage the entire community to take pride in the health and cleanliness of our islands by participating in the quarterly islandwide cleanups coordinated through this initiative," he said.

The governor also commends the Let's Move Marianas campaign and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. for their continued efforts in promoting a healthy lifestyle and a clean CNMI.

For registration and more information, contact Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Ben Somol at 664-8500.

OPM: Within-grade increases still not allowed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Office of Personnel Management said "within-grade increases" are still not allowed, warning that personnel actions for such benefit have been processed in violation of a 2001 suspension. OPA said that effective immediately, it will return any such personnel action to the originating department or agency because of the "continued suspension of the benefit."

"These violations create an inconsistency in enforcement that cannot be allowed. The suspension of within-grade increases must be enforced until the governor determines and announces otherwise," acting Personnel director Joseph M. Pangelinan said in an April 7 memo to departments and activity heads.

OPM also sent copies of the memo to Gov. Eloy S. Inos and the Legislature. Lawmakers said yesterday they have yet to read the memo.

Pangelinan said OPM continues to receive requests for personnel action for employee within-grade increases, a subject that he personally discussed with the Civil Service Commission. CSC has been reviewing employee benefits.

He said the commission pointed out that the within-grade increase is "still under suspension due to Governor Pedro P. Tenorio's determination in 2001 that there was insufficient public funding for WGIs."

Such determination has been continuously upheld and maintained by subsequent governors.

Pangelinan, in his one-page memo, said Gov. Eloy S. Inos recently stated that the CNMI still does not have sufficient funding to restore within-grade increase benefit.

"Accordingly, within-grade increases cannot be approved and processed," he said.

Pangelinan said in OPM and CSC's review, they have noted that "some personnel actions for WGIs have been processed in violation of the governor's suspension."

"The suspension of WGIs must be enforced until the governor determines and announces otherwise," he said.

The continued suspension of within-grade increases applies to all Executive Branch departments, their subordinate activities, and all other activities that OPM services.

OPM's Pangelinan added that approval of within-grade increases by the governor's office, Office of Management and Budget, or the Department of Finance "does not override the governor's determination."

In previous years, some lawmakers attempted to fund within-grade increases but the bills either failed to reach the governor's desk or if they did, they were vetoed.

The Civil Service Commission, during its first meeting in 2014, noted the need to review personnel issues as the frozen annual within-grade increase and promotional increase programs and other matters within the Personnel Service Systems Rules and Regulations, among other things.

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CUC

From Page 1

Newly elected board chair David J. Sablan earlier said he is personally opposed to the standby charge, emphasizing the need for the agency to entice more customers to join its grid.

During yesterday's CUC board meeting, Sablan reiterated his position, which was echoed by fellow board member Adelina Roberto, who said that "CUC needs to change its image with the public" and try to work collaboratively with its customers.

She reminded CUC officials present, led by executive director Alan Fletcher and CFO Charles Warren, that there should be a "give-and-take" relationship between CUC and its patrons.

After a lengthy discussion on the standby charge proposal, all four board members voted to remove the proposal before the CPUC and instructed legal counsel James Sirok to immediately submit an amendment with CPUC.

The standby charge is among the rate petitions CUC filed since July last year. This recommends a $20 per kW monthly charge for large customers and was projected to generate $2.4 million annually for the utilities agency. Those that would have been affected by the charge, had it been approved, are members of both the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Saipan Facilities Management Association. Both strongly opposed the rate proposal.

Meantime, CUC officials reported to the board yesterday that because the agency will still need the funding requirement for its continued operation, a new proposal is being finalized that will replace the standby charge proposal.

According to Warren, an "introductory rate" is now being negotiated by all parties—CUC, CPUC consultant, and large customers—for the commission's consideration later.

The proposed introductory rate (or incentive rate), he said, is to lure large customers to the CUC grid. If implemented, it is projected to raise $1.6 million annually, which is lower than the $2.4 million anticipated revenue from the standby charge.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

TINIAN

From Page 1

Lucia L. Blanco-Maratita, casino commission executive director, said it is "unfortunate" that Dynasty characterizes the commission's enforcement and regulatory work as "uncooperative" attitude toward Dynasty.

"Perhaps this is due to the practice of non-compliance in previous years and now the current structure of the commission and executive director are taking the necessary approach of ensuring compliance with the Gaming Act in order to protect the public's interest in the integrity of the regulatory process and of casino operations," Blanco-Maratita told *Saipan Tribune*.

She said these public policies are embodied in Part 12 of the Gaming Act and are "designed to contribute to public confidence and trust in the efficacy and integrity of the regulatory process."

Blanco-Maratita said the commission is doing its job to protect the casino gaming industry "by having a reputable casino with proper controls and operations, a casino with an effective management team such as suitable casino key employees, to protect its assets by ensuring compliance, and protecting Tinian from the ills of having an unregulated or poorly regulated casino industry where persons with unacceptable backgrounds and records of behavior to control casino gaming operations."

Matthew Masga, chairman of the Tinian casino commission, earlier said they are only properly enforcing the provisions of the Tinian Gaming Act as the U.S. government is scrutinizing the Tinian casino industry—including the casino commission

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INOS

From Page 1

Baldyga disclosed plans to develop other tourism-related attractions on Saipan.

"Mr. Baldyga wanted to do more investment here, which is good news, tourism-related projects," the governor said in an interview, adding that one of those includes a "sea walk" development.

Inos said this is "good news" for the CNMI, also noting that Baldyga is not here to compete with the CNMI but rather to work with it.

This comes days after the governor approved the Commonwealth Development Authority's recommendation to grant Sea Touch a qualifying certificate, in connection with the company's plan to invest $1.125 million in a business engaged in interactive marine activities and marine animal encounters.

Inos also confirmed that DFS Galleria is considering the development of a new hotel in its other property toward the beach "immediately north of Hafa Adai" [Hafadai Beach Hotel] in Garapan.

This was days after DFS officials met with Department of Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio. The governor said there's public land adjacent to DFS' property.

"So depending on the footprint of the proposed development, they might lease some public land to expand the project but they do have that property for quite some time now. It would be nice if they can… develop that area," the governor said.

The CNMI has been running out of hotel rooms to accommodate a growing number of tourists, so it has urged investors to get their hotels back online or build new ones.

"I was pretty much asking them to please consider developing, building more hotel rooms," he said.

The governor also said existing airlines such as Dynamic Airways can always increase the number of its flights to and from the CNMI, but he said the problem right now is the lack of hotel rooms.

Inos signed on March 21 a bill legalizing casino gaming on Saipan. The law, as amended, gives interested investors up to April 21 to submit an application accompanied by a nonrefundable $1 million application fee.

Hong Kong-based Honest Profit International Ltd. will also be leasing a piece of public land in San Antonio for its initial $120-million, 300-room hotel complex.

Tan Holdings, meanwhile, plans to lease almost 10 hectares of public lands in Marpi for its over $133-million, 455-room high-end hotel resort project.

Moreover, South Korean giant E Land will be renovating one of its properties on Saipan, the former The Palms Resort, and reopen it as early as next year under the international hotel brand Sheraton.

DPS

From Page 1

mo's voice," said Saralu, who was among the government's witnesses called to the witness stand yesterday in the ongoing jury trial in Superior Court of the 40-year-old Crisostomo.

Saralu, a supervisor at the Department of Public Safety's Commonwealth Bureau of Investigation's Narcotics Section, also disclosed that on Feb. 10, 2012, the entire Criminal Investigation Bureau (now called Commonwealth Bureau of Investigation)—composed of 20 to 25 detectives—listened to the 911 recordings and that half of them recognized Crisostomo's voice in the recordings.

Guam chief medical examiner Dr. Aurelio Espinola also testified yesterday that Romero died of strangulation and that her bruises in the lower and upper extremities showed that there was a struggle before she died.

Saralu admitted that their "persons of interest" were at first Romero's boyfriend Taj Van Buuren and the driver of an illegal taxicab. He said a "person of interest" means a person who knows what happened to Romero.

The detective said their investigation, however, shifted to one person—Crisostomo—after Joan Castro, Crisostomo's former common-law wife, called him on Feb. 8, 2012, about Romero's murder.

Castro reportedly told Saralu that on the evening of Feb. 4, 2012, Crisostomo was seen driving a rented dark-colored Toyota Yaris or Corolla. Crisostomo was accompanied by his sister, Annie Crisostomo, and Annie's boyfriend, Cheyenne Sablan.

Following Castro's tips, Saralu said they canvassed rent-a-car companies on the island until they found the Toyota Corolla with license plate ACG-246 that Annie Crisostomo rented from Islander Rent A Car.

Saralu said he and detective Simon Manacop impounded the car and brought it to DPS Boating Safety Section hangar, where Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent Haejun Park processed it.

Saralu admitted that prior to Castro's call, Crisostomo was not a "person of interest."

The detective said that on Feb. 10, 2012, the entire CIB detectives had a meeting where they listened to the recordings of the 911 call that Romero made in the early morning hours of Feb. 5, 2012. Saralu said he recognized three voices in the recordings: Romero's, 911 operator Sandy Hambros', and Crisostomo's. Saralu said that Romero was screaming.

Saralu said that almost half of the detectives present at the meeting recognized Crisostomo's voice. He said he is very familiar with Crisostomo's voice because the defendant used to work with them for quite a while as a confidential informant.

Saralu will continue his testimony today, Tuesday, at 8:30am.

Before the detective was called to the witness stand, Espinola, a forensic pathologist, testified for the government.

Espinola said that all of Romero's clothes were intact when he saw the body during the autopsy he did at the Commonwealth Health Center's morgue on Feb. 7, 2012. He said she had on two tank tops, bra, a pair of short pants, a bikini panty, and a belt.

Espinola determined that Romero died as a result of asphyxia due to strangulation. He said a black piece of cloth was used to strangle the victim. He found the cloth loop-tied around the victim's neck with a square knot on the right side. He also found swelling and contusions on the victim's legs, arms, and knees.

Espinola said there was premortem hemorrhage or bleeding under the skin that suggested beating and that there was a struggle before Romero died.

Espinola said there was no trauma in Romero's genitals, but that he could not rule out that the possibility that she was sexually assaulted. He said if a woman has sexual experience, there is no trauma in the vagina unless the assailant is sadistic who uses foreign materials or objects.

Shown photos of Romero during the autopsy, Aurelio said that Romero's body was already in an advanced state of decomposition. He said the body was already bloated.

Crisostomo showed no emotions as he glanced at the victim's photos.

Espinola said that before he did the autopsy, a doctor and a nurse at CHC collected swab samples from Romero for analysis to check if she had been sexually assaulted.

Espinola said he concluded that Romero was strangled because of the presence of the cloth tied very tightly around her neck and her tongue protruded outside the mouth. He said there was bleeding in the upper and lower eyelids because of the pressure applied to the neck.

Espinola said he then opened the body and confirmed that Romero died of strangulation upon seeing that her heart was dilated. He said the heart becomes dilated during strangulation because of its difficulty of pumping blood. He added that the injury to the neck was consistent with strangulation.

Present during the autopsy were detective Manacop, FBI special agent Haejun Park, a doctor, a nurse, and a mortician.

Eduardo G. Relata, the older brother of Romero, testified that between 5pm to 6pm on Feb. 5, 2012, Romero's employer, Scott Dottino, came over to their house, looking for her. Relata said he told Dottino that maybe his sister was already at Godfather's Bar in Garapan. He said his sister usually opens the establishment if it's a Sunday.

Relata recalled that the last time he saw his sister alive was on the night of Feb. 4, 2012, when she asked him to drop her off at work. Relata said he asked their cousin to drop her off.

On Feb. 7, 2012 when Romero was found at the former La Fiesta Mall, he was searching for her at the northern side of the island. That same night, he said, they were allowed to see the body at CHC's morgue. He recognized her anklet in the right leg and her fingernails.

Relata said he already heard his sister's 911 call. He identified the 911 call disc, but the prosecution did not play the recordings in court. He said there were three voices in the 911 call, one of which was his sister's, and then two men. His voice cracked when he recalled that it sounded like his sister really needed help to get free, and was begging for her life.

At least two women, both of whom were Romero's friends, were seen crying inside the courtroom.

Detective Roque Camacho testified that he too recognized Crisostomo's voice as one of three voices in the 911 recordings that Manacop asked him to listen on Feb. 10, 2012. Camacho said he was also among the CIB detectives who listened to the same recordings later that night of Feb. 10, 2012.

Camacho said that afternoon of Feb. 10, 2012, he and other detectives met Crisostomo at a runway in Koblerville, where they talked about his information about narcotics. Camacho said they also asked Cristomo about the Romero case, but the defendant denied any knowledge of it. He said he did not notice any bruises and scratches on Crisostomo that day.

Camacho said he listened to the 911 recordings upon Manacop's request three hours after that conversation with Crisostomo.

On defense attorney Janet H. King's cross-examination, Camacho disclosed that they also checked Van Bureen's body, but they did not find any bruises or scratches.

The detective said on Feb. 7, 2010, he interviewed a firefighter, who stated that on that morning he saw a Caucasian male on the side of the road near the northern part of the former La Fiesta. Camacho said the information had no value to the investigation because they found out that the Caucasian was simply exercising there and had used a gold Toyota Echo, which was different from the car they were looking.

Police officer Eric F. David, who is in charge of the 911 recorder at DPS, also took the witness stand. David said he extracted and saved the "odd" 911 calls made on Feb. 5, 2012, upon Manacop's request on Feb. 7, 2012.

David said that with the help of his counterpart in Guam, he downloaded the extracted 911 recordings and burned them to three discs.

Estrellita Relata, younger sister of Romero, also briefly testified, saying she and her sister shared a room in their house. She said that in the early morning of Feb. 5, 2012, she did not notice her sister come home.

Estrellita said that when she woke up at 11am on Feb. 5, Romero was not in the room. She said at the time, she was not aware that Van Buuren was her sister's boyfriend. Estrellita, however, stated that her sister once showed her photos of Van Buuren on her cellphone.

Responding to a question raised by Associate Judge Joseph Camacho, Estrellita said her sister had leggings, but she seldom used it.

Meanwhile, it was clarified yesterday that Taj Van Buuren lives in an apartment at a building where Wash and Wear Washland is located in Chalan Piao.

Judgment on PSS, CHCC collection lawsuits eyed

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. had just about had enough of delinquent government accounts and is set to issue an ultimatum to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Public School System to pay up or the courts will be asked to decide on the matter.

Saipan Tribune learned that settlement negotiation between PSS and the utilities corporation may be halted following a drop in PSS' budget for fiscal year 2015, as recommended by the governor in his budget plan submitted to the Legislature.

CUC earlier separately sued its three biggest customers—PSS, CHCC, and the central government—for their outstanding obligations, now totaling over $21 million.

In the letter to be issued anytime this week, CUC will demand a "compromise plan" from PSS and CHCC or any effort of showing "good faith" from them.

"If not responded satisfactory, CUC will go ahead and file a motion for judgment [in court]," said CUC board chair David J. Sablan in his instruction to their legal counsel.

CUC, however, did not include the central government in its plan to issue ultimatum letters.

Sablan disclosed yesterday that "initial discussion" between him and the administration on the central government's arrears hints at a positive result. He said "relief" is forthcoming to CUC.

» Hospital 'keeps ignoring' CUC; board OKs final ultimatum

"I feel comfortable with the central government arrears because there was already initial discussion. The governor is supportive of CUC and there might be a 'relief' on that," said Sablan, adding that he will continue this negotiation to ensure that CUC will get paid.

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren said the aging receivables from PSS, CHCC, and the central government now totals over $21 million as of March 31, 2014. The bulk is owed by CHCC, which is $11 million; $6.4 million is owed by PSS and about $3.6 million is owed by the central government.

Warren disclosed that because of CUC's cash-flow problem, it was forced to de-obligate some funds for certain contracts so it could buy fuel every two weeks.

CUC legal counsel James Sirok described CHCC "as the biggest abuser" of the utilities agency. He disclosed that the hospital never responds to letters from CUC. According to Sirok, CHCC is "totally ignoring" the utilities agency.

Despite years of delinquency, CUC has always provided uninterrupted service to the healthcare corporation's facilities.

CUC board vice chair Diego Songao said that CUC should look into the assets of these delinquent customers to help offset their increasing power bills. CUC could use empty or unutilized school buildings and offices to generate revenues.

Sablan also opened up the idea of disconnecting non-essential services under the two agencies to at least minimize the debt they are incurring with CUC.

He said all customers of CUC must be treated equally and fairly, and if there's a need to invest in separate meters for these non-essential services, the board is willing to go that route.

PSS expends $15.8M in 6 mos.; allotment shortfall at $1 million

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Six months before the end of the current fiscal year the Public School System's operating expenses has already reached $15.8 million, resulting in a $1.070 million shortfall in allotment from the general fund.

PSS finance director Derek Sasamoto disclosed that as of April 4, the system is left with a balance of $16.9 million in its fiscal year 2014 budget.

PSS was allocated $32.7 million for this fiscal year: $28.135 million for personnel cost; $2.8 million for all others; and $2.3 million for utilities.

As of April 4, Sasamoto said personnel expenses totaled $13.148 million, leaving a balance of $14.9 million until Sept. 30, the end of the fiscal year.

For all others, the remaining balance is $785,778 after PSS spent $1.495 million for operation in six months.

Of $2.3 million budget for utilities, PSS has already spent $1.168 million in six months, which leaves a balance of $1.131 million.

PSS, which is about to close the school year, expects to see a further drop in its utility consumption until the end of fiscal year 2014, Sasamoto said.

For its cash flow situation, PSS posted an allotment shortfall of $1.070 million, based on the financial record as of April 7. PSS allotments supposedly come every week, amounting to $616,000.

Sasamoto reported that PSS received a total of $16.181 million allotments in fiscal year 2014; the last was transferred from the Department of Finance on April 1.

"The allotment shortfall as of April 7 ($1.070 million) is based on expected weekly transfer schedule net of actual allotments," explained Sasamoto.

TINIAN

From Page 4

and Dynasty.

Dynasty's new owner, Hong Kong-based Mega Stars Overseas Ltd., hopes the commission would be more reasonable with their restrictions on casino equipment purchases and hiring that they say are now hampering casino operations. It said some requests for approvals were pending as early as October 2013.

Tinian Dynasty is the biggest private sector employer on Tinian.

Despite their concerns, Mega Stars chief executive officer Cario Hon reiterated their commitment to Dynasty, Tinian, and the CNMI.

The governor, for his part, said it may seem that it's taking "a little too long" for the Tinian casino commission to decide but it also has to do due diligence investigation.

Inos said his administration could inquire by asking, "Is there anything that we can do to help or facilitate the review of their qualification? I think they call it suitability. It shouldn't be taking that long but that, again, is my personal opinion."

Mega Stars complains that the cooperative relationship between Dynasty and the commission "dissipated quickly" soon after the Tinian casino commission's "restructuring" and the "appointment of an executive director."

Blanco-Maratita said regulation of the casino gaming industry is especially important "since the only way that we can attain, maintain, and retain integrity, public confidence, and trust is to have a strong system of control and regulation, which seeks to exclude and remove unsuitable persons within the casino gaming operations and establishments."

"Therefore, just as the Revised Tinian Casino Gaming Control Act requires a finding of suitability in order to grant a casino license (under Section 17), an applicant for a casino service industry license and a casino employee or casino key employee license must also be found suitable in order to be granted a license," she said.

The suitability standard, she added, means that the person is of good repute with respect to character, honesty and integrity, financial stability, experience in casino and business management, etc.

These suitability requirements also apply to casino service industry providers and casino (and key) employees, she said.

Dynasty and Mega Stars said Dynasty has been ordering and receiving service from their suppliers for over 10 years "without any issues or inappropriate dealings."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

Aesthetician joins Saipan beauty salon

HANAIVY BABAUTA

Aesthetician Ermelo "Mhel" T. Macadag-um performs the Lipo Slim procedure, a non-surgical slimming technique, one of the newest services at Jojo's Beauty Salon & Spa.

Jojo's Beauty Salon & Spa scored a coup of sorts after recently hiring an aesthetician from the renowned The Medical Plaza in the Philippines.

Ermelo "Mhel" T. Macadag-um arrived on Saipan just last April 4 and was immediately deployed to help beauty-conscious customers of the two-year-old beauty salon along Quartermaster Road.

ADVERTISING Feature

As an aesthetician, Macadag-um is trained to administer facials, advise customers on makeup, and the care of skin.

He worked for The Medical Plaza, an appendage of Makati Medical Center, from 2006 to 2014 and also served as a skincare consultant for Meladerm, which is a famous skin-lightening product in the Philippines.

A graduate of the Classic School of Cosmetology and holder of an associate nursing degree at Arellano University, Macadag-um is currently a fourth-year student of complementary alternative medicine at the University of Makati. He plans to finish the course online.

CONTACT INFO
Tel: 235-5598

This is not his first time in Micronesia as he also visited Majuro in the Marshall Islands for a couple of months to conduct skincare training.

Macadag-um said his initial impressions of the island is that it's peaceful and has a relatively slow pace compared to the hustle and bustle of Manila, which is just fine by him since he was pining for a change of scenery. He can't wait to help the local community with their beauty needs, especially in skincare.

Jojo's Beauty Salon & Spa is also rolling out its newest service called Lipo Slim, a non-surgical slimming procedure that uses a machine Macadag-um fondly calls a "fat blaster."

Lipo Slim, he said, uses no anesthesia, is not painful, there are no pills required, and is just a 20-minute procedure with guaranteed results.

It's tailor-made to rid oneself of post-partum residual fats and is perfect for cellulite, double chin, flabby arms, and love handles removal. It's also good for body and facial contouring as well as facial infusion of vitamins and minerals.

So far, a couple of regulars have already undergone the Lipo Slim procedure and, according to Macadag-um, they have been quite impressed with the results, with one client boasting she can now easily fit into an old pair of jeans after losing an inch or two on her waistline.

For a limited time only, Jojo's Beauty Salon & Spa is offering 25-percent off on the Lipo Slim procedure as one session with Macadag-um and the fat blaster now costs only $75, down from the previous introductory price of $100.

While the Lipo Slim offers fast results, Macadag-um cautions clients that they would eventually gain back the weight and inches they lost if they don't change their lifestyle. He thus espouses a healthier lifestyle and recommends eating the right food and regular exercise for customers of the Lipo Slim.

Aside from the Lipo Slim procedure, Macadag-um said Jojo's Beauty Salon & Spa is also the place to be for acne treatment and skin whitening treatment.

He guarantees 100 percent that the beauty salon could help longtime sufferers of acne kiss their blackheads and pimples away. The skin whitening treatment, meanwhile, can be had for an affordable $50.

Jojo's Beauty Salon & Spa is located along Quartermaster Road, a few meters across the SDA Dental Clinic. For appointments or for more information, call 235-5598. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

HANAIVY BABAUTA

Jojo's Beauty Salon & Spa is located along Quartermaster Road, a few meters across the SDA Dental Clinic.

Come and try our relaxing and stimulating services and enjoy the following benefits:

LIPOSLIM (NON-SURGICAL LIPOSUCTION)
Face and Body Cavitation with Diode
- Low frequency ultrasound wave that creates micro bubbles in the body fluids.
- Result to selective destruction of fat cells
- Non-surgical fat analysis
- Improvement on cellulite appearance
- 20-minute procedure with guaranteed results
- Centimeters loss per session
- Primary fat loss and body sculpture for contour
- New non-invasive technology for patients with high BMI
- Non-invasive technology by licensed physicians
- No anesthesia, no pain, no pills

We also offer various Facial Care, Body Treatment, Waxing, Foot and Hand Care, Hair Treatment, Beauty Enhancement, Make-up, and others

Opening Promo

Package I- $100.00
- 2 Sessions of therapeutic facial treatment with diamond peel, infusion of vitamins.
- 1 Manicure with nail art.

Package II- $150.00
- 3 Signature Facials
- 1 Facial infusion of vitamins
- 1 Facial Contouring

Package III- $100.00
- 2 Sessions of rejuvenating and anti-aging facial with whitening.

Package IV- $150.00
- 2 Session of non-surgical face lift
- 1 Haircut
- 1 Pedicure with nail art

Package V- $80.00
- Therapeutic facial cleansing
- Face whitening
- Manicure
- Pedicure

Package VI- $200.00
- Hair Power Dose
- Hair Cut

Package VII- $180.00
- Hair Rebond
- Hair Color
- Hair Cut

Package VIII- $150.00
- Hair Relaxer
- Hair Cellophane
- Hair Cut

Package IX- $100.00
- Hair Color
- Hair Treatment
- Hair Cut

Face & Body Care Promo
- 6 Sessions of non-surgical liposuction $500.00
  - 1 session is worth $100.00
- 6 Sessions of underarm whitening and waxing $300.00
  - 1 session is worth $60.00
- 6 Sessions of facial contouring with whitening and 1 face peeling $400.00
  - 1 session is worth $80.00

Call for more details
(670) 235-5598 or 235-5599
Jojo's Beauty Salon & Spa

BEACH ROAD
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CLINIC
QUARTER MASTER ROAD
MIDDLE ROAD, CHALAN LAULAU
X JOJO'S BEAUTY SALON & SPA

JMG Bldg.
POLARIS DEV'T CORP.
AVON OUTLET
APARTMENT & COMMERCIAL SPACE RENTAL
JOJO'S BEAUTY SALON & SPA

Hyatt, Joeten added to MMAC's list of sponsors

Hyatt Regency Saipan donates over $1,000 to the 2014 Marianas March Against Cancer.

JAYSON CAMACHO

Hyatt Regency Saipan and Joeten Daidai Foundation are once again sponsoring this year's staging of the Marianas March Against Cancer.

Hyatt donated over $1,000 as a major sponsor for the MMAC, while Joeten Daidai Foundation is a title sponsor, providing $2,000 in cash and $3,000 of in-kind donations.

Hyatt director for rooms Rosalyn Quintanilla said the company has been supporting the MMAC back when it was still called Relay for Life.

"We have been donating back in 1998. When MMAC came in we continued to help out," Quintanilla said.

Hyatt food and beverage director Tyrell Pauling noted that they are still undecided whether to join as a team or just to help raise funds.

Joeten Daidai Foundation executive director Soledad Quan said that they would also be partnering up with Marianas High School as far as fundraising and activities go.

"For the actual event we will be partnering with MHS and hope to have the same turnout as last year," Quan said.

She said they are happy to once again support MMAC. She also noted that MHS will put together a video production crew and that Rhythm N' Harmony of MHS will be a part of the MMAC team-up with Joeten.

Manny Borja, 2014 MMAC overall committee chair, is grateful that Hyatt and Joeten are once again sponsors for this year's event.

"Hyatt and Joeten have always been the biggest supporters of MMAC year after year. Once again we're happy to have them back and we're happy to have them onboard."

This year's MMAC title sponsors are Bank of Guam, Delta Air Lines, DFS Saipan, Ltd., GPPC, Island Apparel, IT&E, Joeten Daidai Foundation, *Marianas Variety*, Sorensen Media Group, and Take Care/FHP. Its major sponsors are Brabu Pharmacy, Docomo Pacific, First Hawaiian Bank, IP&E, McDonald's of Saipan, Precision Medical Imaging, Saipan Mayor's Office, Traders Insurance Co., Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Xerox Corp.

The 2014 MMAC will be held on May 2 to May 3, 2014, from 6pm to 6am at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao. It is the signature fundraising event of the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

For more information, contact Borja at 989-1987, email him at emanuel.borja@gmail.com, or visit CCA website at www.ccamarianas.org. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

JAYSON CAMACHO

Joeten Daidai Foundation donates $2,000 in cash and $3,000 in-kind as title sponsor of this year's Marianas March Against Cancer.

FUNDRAISING DINNER
for Anicia Q. Tomokane

Where: Hyatt Regency, Saipan
When: Saturday, April 26, 2014
Time: 6:00pm to 10:00pm
$50.00

To purchase ticket, please send text message to 287-0054/989-4274 or call 322-4650

Help Anicia in raising fund to help cover some of the expenses associated with her medical treatment for cancer.

Thank you very much for your support!

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
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Tels: (670) 234-6866/9447/7689/7670 • Fax: (670) 234-9021

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
REPROGRAMMING OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

Program Year	Activity No.	Activity Type	Activity Name	Activity Status	Amount from program	Reprogram to
2013	579	Public Facilities	Expansion of the Division of Youth Services Shelter	Ongoing	$71,375.00	
2013	Assigned upon approval	Public Facilities	Purchase of Fire Protection Equipment for CNMI Fire Divisions	New		$71,375.00
Total					**$71,375.00**	**$71,375.00**

The public is invited to provide written and oral comments on the proposed reprogramming. Written comments will be accepted no later than 4:30 p.m., April 30, 2014, at the main office in Garapan, Post Office Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950. Oral comments may be relayed to Jeannie P. Mafnas at telephone number (670) 234-7670, 6866, 7689, or 9447. Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations to submit comments may also contact Ms. Jeannie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, at the telephone numbers above for assistance.

/s/Marcie M. Tomokane

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB14-DPS/OHSR-075
SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 29, 2014 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF AN OCCUPANT PROTECTION/CHILD RESTRAINT TRAILER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, ROTA DPS TRAFFIC SECTION"

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.
T
The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
Commissioner of DPS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB14-DPS/OHSR-076
SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 29, 2014 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A LED SIGN TRAILER FOR THE ROTA DPS TRAFFIC SECTION"

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
Commissioner of DPS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Healthy benefits of bananas make growing your own worthwhile

There are many health benefits to eating bananas. Bananas are a natural mood enhancer due to high levels of tryptophan. They are officially recognized by the FDA to lower blood pressure. Bananas increase the absorption of calcium and protect your eyes from macular degeneration. In addition, bananas provide relief from constipation and are a natural antacid. Just this short list of benefits is enough to encourage one to plant a banana patch.

Since 2010, with funding from the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, the Guam Department of Agriculture and the University of Guam have been partnering to make disease-free planting stock available to farmers for local banana production. Several varieties of banana plants are available at the Guam Department of Agriculture nursery on Dairy Road in Mangilao.

"We bring new plant varieties to Guam that are disease-free and suitable for Guam's growing conditions. A local farmer requested a banana variety called FHIA (pronounced fee-ha) that is used around the Pacific and Caribbean because of its resistance to Black Sigatoka, caused by an airborne fungus and Fusarium Wilt (Panama disease). We are happy to announce that several FHIA varieties (both dessert and plantain types) are available and ready for planting," said Alicja Wiecko, UOG research associate and administrator of the USDA grant.

Wiecko has been working with the Tropical Agriculture Research Station in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, and with the recently commissioned tissue culture laboratory in Suva, Fiji, to find planting stock for Guam. Fiji's tissue culture facility was built with assistance provided by the Fiji government and the Australian aid program through the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. TARS in Puerto Rico has a germplasm collection of all valuable bananas that are freely distributed by the U.S. National Plant Germplasm System for educational, agriculture research or breeding purposes.

UOG

Field technician Frank Megofna poses with young FHIA plants in the Guam Department of Agriculture Tissue Culture Program nursery.

"Both laboratories have provided us with several varieties of banana, taro, and yam," said Wiecko. "Tissue culture plants are ideal for sending plantlets through the mail as there is no risk of introducing diseases or pests."

FHIA is the Spanish acronym of the Honduran Agricultural Research Foundation (*Fundación Hondureña de Investigación Agrícola*), where the first breeding program for disease-resistant banana and plantain hybrids was started. There are now many FHIA varieties that have been successfully planted in more than 50 countries.

Enhance your mood and reap the other health benefits of eating bananas by starting your own banana patch today. FHIA varieties currently available at the Guam Department of Agriculture are FHIA 1, FHIA 2, FIHA 3, FHIA 17, 18, and FHIA 21. Other banana varieties available are Dwarf French Plantain, Macao, Dwarf Brazilian, Lacatan, Williams, Ducasse, Mysore, Fiji, and Guahu (Dwarf Cavendish).

For more information and to learn how you can grow your own bananas, contact Alicja Wiecko at 735-2140 or Ricardo Lizama at 300-7974. ***(UOG)***

Learn more about Marianas coral ecosystem

Are you curious about the general health of coral species and ecosystems in our local waters? How about those surrounding our Northern Islands? Has monitoring shown a trend toward improvement, staying the same, or declining?

Coral disease specialist Dr. Bernardo Vargas-Angel, National Marine Fisheries Service Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center Coral Reef Ecosystem Division's Benthic Team lead and chief scientist of the current Mariana Archipelago Rapid Assessment and Monitoring Protocol cruise, will be providing a talk at the American Memorial Park Auditorium today, April 15, beginning at 5:30pm.

Vargas-Angel will be providing an update on coral reef observations in the southern islands of the Mariana Archipelago from current and previous MARAMP cruises.

As at all Asia Pacific Academy of Sciences, Science Education, and Environmental Management gatherings, questions from the audience are greatly encouraged. Details on the current voyage and mission are also available at the NOAA website, http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov/cred/.

For more information, contact APASEEM president Michael Trianni at michael.trianni@noaa.gov. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Navy training at North Tinian Airfield

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct helicopter operations at the North Tinian Airfield on Charlie and Delta runways on April 15 from 9am to noon. This training is designed to enhance military readiness. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see and hear increased activity associated with the training. ***(PR)***

Rota business workshop postponed

The CNMI Small Business Development Center regrets to inform the public that the CNMI SBDC Business Training Seminar on Rota that will take place on April 25 at Rota's Northern Marianas College will be postponed until further notice. ***(PR)***

CCA board meeting on April 22

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its regular meeting on Tuesday, April 22, 2014, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on April 24

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 24, 2014, starting at 5:30pm at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's Restaurant. To RSVP or for more information, call the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com orcca@ccamarianas.org. ***(PR)***

MHS dates to remember

- April 16: 3rd Quarter Report Card will be distributed to students during the first period.
- April 16: Last day for students to sign up for Summer School
- April 17– 22: Spring Break
- April 23: DPH annual flu vaccination campaign. Students can take advantage of free flu shots. A signed parent consent form is required.
- April 26: Junior-Senior "Vintage Prom" at Saipan World Resort
- April 28 – May 2: SAT-10 Testing (9th and 11th grade students are tested)
- May 2: Student Service Learning hours due (turn in to respective counselors)
- May 8: 4th Quarter Mid-Progress Reports in the gym from 4pm to 6pm
- May 7 – 16: Advanced placement testing

For more information, call the Main Office at 237-3206/5 or check out our website at www.marianashighschool.com. ***(PR)***

Free erosion control training

Join the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality for a free workshop to learn about how to manage your land to decrease erosion and protect the environment on Saturday, April 26, 9am to 2pm, at Laolao Bay Golf Resort. Please contact Jihan Buniag at 664-8522 or 989-8442 to register. ***(PR)***

MINA, Hyatt sets tree planting

Join the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance and Hyatt Regency Saipan on Earth Day, April 22. MINA, in partnership with Hyatt, will engage with guests, associates, and the community in a native tree planting event at Laolao Bay from 8am onwards. To become a MINA volunteer email us at minaoutreach@gmail.com or call 233-REEF for more details. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 15, 2006

CNMI runways are safe

Although not as sophisticated as those in the U.S. mainland, CNMI airport runways are safe and compliant with federal standards, according to federal and local authorities. Federal Aviation Administration runway safety teams inspected the airports on Tinian, Rota, and Saipan this week, and found them to be safe, said Commonwealth Ports Authority acting executive director Regino Celis. The runways are safe. FAA just finished their annual inspection. We are in compliance with the FAA requirements, said Celis.

CPA inks agreement with barge company

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has signed an agreement with a company for a multi-million barge manufacturing venture on Saipan. CPA consultant Carlos H. Salas said in an interview this week that the agency and STA Ocean Shipbuilding Marianas Inc. signed the agreement in January this year. The company is represented locally by businessman Anthony Pellegrino, who earlier rejected the CPA's proposed 3-percent gross profit fee for the use of seaport property. Pellegrino had said that 3 percent of the gross profit seemed too high, considering that each barge was priced at about $12 million.

April 15, 2007

Room occupancy at record low

Hotel occupancy in the Northern Marianas has hit an "unprecedented low," with some hotels registering a 20-40 percent average occupancy this month, authorities said. "Occupancy is as low as…20-40 percent. This is an unprecedented low. You don't usually see this kind of lows," said Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands chair Lynn Knight in an interview. She said she received this information from HANMI members. "Everybody is affected a little bit differently but what we're seeing now is unprecedented," she said.

Close Up students visit DC

Over 160 students from the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau visited the Main Interior Building this week for two hours as part of Close-Up Foundation activities. The group was in Washington D.C. for a weeklong stay to visit important historical sites and to meet with officials in the Executive Branch and on Capitol Hill as well as with their own Ambassador, Member of Congress or Resident Representative. This group will also visit Philadelphia before returning home.

April 15, 2008

Lack of fuel triggers outages

A lack of fuel at Power Plant 4 in Puerto Rico triggered outages in many areas on Saipan yesterday, beginning as early as 3:02am. Mobil only started delivery of part of the 80,000 gallons of fuel yesterday morning, Saipan Tribune learned. CUC Power Division acting manager Gary P. Camacho told Saipan Tribune that the 80,000 gallons of fuel (worth $296,000) would last only three and a half to four days. Camacho said the daily consumption at Power Plant 4 had increased since Thursday due to the additional production it is providing to compensate for the engines being repaired at Power Plant 1 in Lower Base.

3 schools closed due to outages

Three schools in the Public School System had no choice but to let their students out early because of a power outage that took longer than expected. Koblerville Elementary School, Hopwood Junior High School and Saipan Southern High School dismissed their students at 11am yesterday. There are about 1,100 students at Hopwood and 747 at Saipan Southern High. The number of affected students at Koblerville Elementary was not immediately available. According to Hopwood principal Christine Masga, the power went out at 6:30am yesterday and had not come back on by 11am. "When we all came in, the power was already off. We expected a two-hour block but today was really long," Masga said. She said the school called the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. several times but it was only in their last call that they discovered that the power outage was expected to go on much longer. Saipan Southern High principal Peter Le'au said the school thought the power outage was only going to last up to two hours, "that's why I kept them [students] longer."

OVR Counseling staff participates in Guam AT conference

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation sent two vocational rehabilitation counselor aides (Tomeko Olaitiman and John Cabrera), three vocational rehabilitation counselors (Rose Ichiuo, Jiana Camacho, and Jane Tudela), as well as one case service manager (Bernice Ravell) to Guam on March 26-29 for professional development meetings, as well as for the 20th Annual Guam System for Assistive Technology Conference.

On March 27, the OVR Counseling staff had a meeting at the U.S. District Court House with Philip Marlowe, compliance officer, regarding the Rehabilitation Act Section 503 and the Responsibility of Federal Contractors in Affirmative Action Plans. According to the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs under the U.S. Department of Labor:

Section 503 prohibits federal contractors and subcontractors from discriminating in employment against individuals with disabilities, and requires these employers to take affirmative action to recruit, hire, promote, and retain these individuals. The new rule strengthens the affirmative action provisions of the regulations to aid contractors in their efforts to recruit and hire individuals with disabilities, and improve job opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

That same day, the OVR Counseling staff had a meeting with the Guam Division of Vocational Rehabilitation staff at their office to share vocational rehabilitation successes and challenges experienced by both islands.

On March 28, OVR Counseling staff found their way to the Somnak Ballroom of the Westin Resort for the 20th GSAT Assistive Technology Conference. GSAT is a program funded by the Assistive Technology Act of 2004, which focuses on assistive technology devices and AT services. The conference was spearheaded by Carla Torres, AT and special programs coordinator for the Guam Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service. Presentations were made on AT advances in law and advocacy, professionalizing the field of AT, Guam Department of Education AT (then and now), loan programs for self-employment, the evolution of AT from a VR perspective, and GSAT (past, present, and future).

Prior to their return flight to Saipan on March 29, three of the OVR Counseling staff went to Adelup to spend a few moments at a community event, the Family Fun Day Picnic, hosted by the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council. ***(OVR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

OVR counseling staff and DVR staff have a meeting in Guam to share vocational rehabilitation successes and challenges experienced by both islands. From left to right: Jiana Camacho, John Cabrera, Tomeko Olaitiman, Diana Favo, Lydia Calvo, Rose Ichiuo, Kasinda Ludwig, Bernice Ravell, Gina Manibusan, Mari Blas , Alvin Ancheta, Lucina Leon Guerrero, and Jane Tudela.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

OVR Counseling staff, GSAT coordinator, and fellow participants take a group photo at the GSAT Conference held at the Westin Resort in Guam. From left to right: Jude, Carla Torres, Tomeko Olaitiman, Jiana Camacho, Steven Santos, Jane Tudela, Rose Ichiuo, Ben Servino, and Bernice Ravell.

Tropical Leisure Sports, Inc.
P.O. Box 500157 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 233-8574 • Fax: (670) 233-0850
Email: tlssaipan@gmail.com

Job Announcement
For Qualified U.S. Citizens

Position: 1 Tour Coordinator Salary: $ 5.55/hr
Duties and Qualification Requirement:
Coordinate all incoming schedules, assist in customer tour participation, explain in Japanese for all forms needed to be read and signed. Contacting other tour company for scheduling and reservations and other related duties as assigned to. Fully able to read, write and speak fluent Japanese. Must have at least 2 years experience in tour related activities.

Position: 1 Manager, Marine Service Salary: $ 5.55/hr
Duties and Qualification Requirement:
Direct activities of boat services, according to knowledge of maintenance need of small craft and marine safety requirements. Confers with owner or crew of vessel to obtain maintenance history and details concerning condition of craft. Observes and listen to vessel in operation to detect unsafe or malfunctioning equipment and leaks or other flaws in hull and superstructure. Must be able to repair/overhaul boat engine (gasoline or diesel) and other related duties as assigned. Employer Preference: College graduate with atleast 5 years experience and must be able to perform the job duties.

Position: 1 Operations Manager Salary: $ 5.55/hr
Duties and Qualification Requirement:
Plan, direct or coordinate the operations of company, manage daily operations. Oversee activities directly related to making products or providing services. Manage staff, preparing work schedules and assigning specific duties. Coordinating with other department heads as required and other related duties as assigned to. College graduate with at least 5 years experience, preferably in managing water sports activities.

Interested applicants may submit their resume to the Marine Sports Center counter located at the beach side of Hafadai Beach Hotel not later than April 25, 2014.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 14-019
Opening Date: Friday, April 11, 2014
Closing Date: Friday, May 30, 2014

Deputy Executive Director

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") is seeking for a qualified Deputy Executive Director ("DED"). CUC is a public utility corporation located on the island of Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI")—a United States territory in the northwestern Pacific Ocean.

The CNMI is a tropical paradise of fourteen islands. In the CNMI you can escape to a place of magnificent beaches and crystal clear aqua waters, and rich history. Saipan offers year-round outdoor activities, world class diving and golfing, international shopping, a range of ethnic restaurants and a cacophony of indigenous and international cultures.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND OPPORTUNITY OFFERED:
Reporting directly to CUC's Executive Director or designee, the Deputy Executive Director ("DED") fills a position required by the Stipulated Order ("SO") of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, Civil Case No. CV 08-0051.

- Primarily responsible for overseeing, all drinking water and wastewater operations and compliance activities and deliverables, on a daily basis, as required by the Stipulated Order. Responsible for maintaining regular contact with EPA staff regarding CWA and SDWA compliance issues. Has authority to make decisions for management and operations of the drinking water and wastewater systems.
- Supervises staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations.
- Provides staff assistance to the Executive Director to include: coordinating activities between CUC and outside organizations and agencies; researching and preparing recommendations on operational directives; and, preparing and presenting staff reports.
- Assumes full management responsibility over divisions as delegated by the Executive Director. Plans, directs and coordinates work of divisions through department heads by meeting with management to identify, prioritize and resolve problems.
- Directs and implements maintenance plans; evaluates maintenance programs to ensure maintenance standards are enforced.
- Participates on a variety of boards and committees and attends a wide variety of management meetings.
- Serves as the Executive Director when the Executive Director is out of the CNMI.
- Performs short and long-range strategic planning.
- Other duties of a similar nature or level as assigned or required.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:
Successful candidates for CUC's Deputy Executive Director must have the following:
- Master's degree in management, engineering, finance or public administration, "OR", in the alternative, a bachelor's degree in engineering "and" registration as a Professional Engineer pursuant to the National Council of Engineering Examiners standards in either the civil, mechanical, or electrical branch. [With your cover letter or resume, please provide a copy or verification of your education and/or registration.]
- Senior management experience of at least ten (10) years desired in similar wastewater and drinking water utility (combined utility is preferred), with similar or greater capital and operating budgets, capital improvement projects, human resources needs, utility financing issues, operation and maintenance training, and implementation needs. [With your cover letter or resume, please provide information supporting your professional background and work assignments showing senior management experience. Please cite duration, responsibility level, duties, position, and other relevant experience substantiating senior management experience.]
- A Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator's Certificate is desired, but not mandatory.
- Must demonstrate: Proven management and communications skills; Demonstrated ability to lead, motivate, and develop staff; Experience with managing major water and wastewater systems during periods of planning, design, and construction; Experience with water and wastewater systems, user fee system development, bond funding, staff training and development, and federal drinking water and wastewater requirements.
- Experience with user fee system development and bond funding is desired, but not mandatory.
- Knowledge of: Leadership principles; Supervisory principles; Strategic planning principles; Budgetary principles; Project management principles; Applicable laws, rules and regulations.
- Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Preparing and administering budgets; Developing and administering strategic plans; Managing large, complex projects; Giving presentations; Preparing technical reports; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.
- A CNMI driver's license or one from another U.S. jurisdiction is required.

SALARY INFORMATION: Based on credentials and specialized experience as a water and wastewater utility senior manager (executive) in a U.S. state, U.S. territory, U.S. commonwealth, and/or the District of Columbia.

POSITION: One (1).

CONTRACT: Two-year; subject to renewal.

RELOCATION EXPENSES: If hired from outside the CNMI, relocation expenses are negotiable; but they are not to exceed $10,000.00 for moving to Saipan and not to exceed $5,000.00 for moving away from Saipan. Receipts will be required for justification. Other conditions may be applicable.

SUBMISSION PROCESS: Applicants of JVA No. 13-006 and JVA No. 13-052 are considered as part of this JVA No. 14-019. These applicants are welcome to contact Human Resources to confirm such inclusion and/or to update their submission. For new applicants, please submit (1) a cover letter, (2) a resume, (3) a list of references, and (4) a CUC Employment Application by one of the following means:

1. United States Postal Service, First Class Mail or Priority Mail*:
   Human Resource Office
   Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
   P. O. Box 501220
   Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA
   * If you choose to submit via USPS, please still also fax "or" email "or" drop off your package.
2. Fax: 670-235-5131
3. Drop Off: Drop off your package at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or Rota Administration Office.

POLICIES: The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer and will not discriminate or tolerate discrimination against any employee or applicant in any manner prohibited by law.

It is also the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Medicare's data release is welcome sunshine

Federal officials released a huge trove of data Wednesday that shows what Medicare has paid to more than 880,000 doctors and other health care providers nationwide. There were some eye-popping stats:

■ About 2 percent of doctors collected about a quarter of the $77 billion in payments in 2012.

■ An ophthalmologist in West Palm Beach, Fla., topped the list by raking in more than $26 million to treat fewer than 900 patients. That is 61 times the average Medicare payout of $430,000 for an ophthalmologist.

■ A Florida cardiologist earned $23 million in Medicare payments, nearly 80 times the average for that specialty.

Those numbers no doubt shocked a lot of Americans. It was news to them. It was not news to Medicare officials, though. They've had this information all along.

Medicare, the federal health care system for the aged that spends more than $500 billion a year, faces an uncertain future. It desperately needs to be more efficient. The data released Wednesday suggest this system has a long, long way to go to control its costs.

Now, high Medicare payments to particular doctors or institutions are not by definition signs of waste or fraud. Some doctors justifiably earn more because they're trained in certain specialties. Some treat patients who require more constant care. There are major regional variations in how doctors practice.

Americans want their doctors to be good. High compensation draws talented people to medicine and to Medicare.

They also want Medicare to survive ... but that's going to require a far more efficient system.

The release of this data is an important step toward that goal. For the first time, Americans can see what individual doctors charged, and what Medicare paid, for thousands of services and procedures. That means doctors who bill Medicare for performing more procedures than reasonably could be accomplished in a day face greater odds that they'll be questioned. The same goes for doctors who overtreat patients by ordering extraordinary numbers of tests, or who treat a suspiciously high number of patients who are diagnosed with extremely rare conditions.

We have long backed efforts by government and advocacy organizations to give Americans better access to information on doctors and hospitals.

Illinois has an extensive hospital report card that helps consumers judge quality of care: healthcarereportcard.illinois.gov.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services posts some hospital quality measures, including readmission rates and other measures, at hospitalcompare.hhs.gov.

Several clinical quality measures for doctors are available at medicare.gov/physiciancompare.

Medicare officials said at a news conference Wednesday that they hope outside researchers and organizations will put this newly released information and other data into user-friendly websites to help consumers search for the best care, and to help pinpoint waste and fraud.

This nation received some valuable new information Wednesday. Let's make good use of it.

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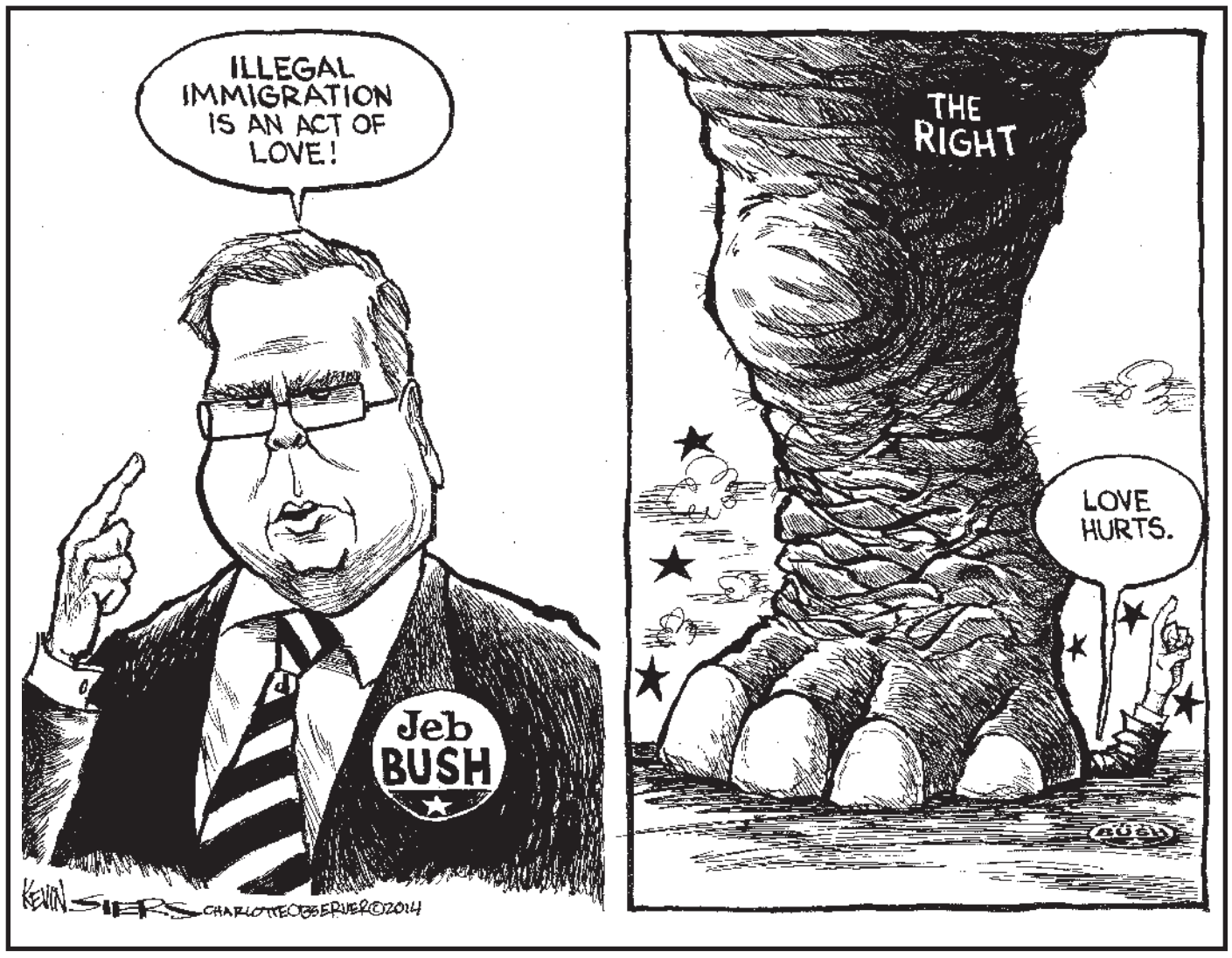


Open letter to Rep. Francisco M Borja

Editor's Note: Rep. Francisco M. Borja is chairman of the House Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs in the 18th CNMI Legislature.

Dear Chairman Borja: The leadership of the 12th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council is happy to provide comments to House Legislative Initiative 18-05 and Senate Legislative Initiative 18-02. Both proposals attempt to amend existing terms on public and private land lease terms.

HLI 18-05 proposes "[t]o amend Article 11, Section 5(c) [of the NMI Constitution] to increase the maximum term of a lease of public lands [to] 99 years" and to continue "to require legislative approval where the leased lands consists of more than five hectares."

On the other hand, SLI 18-02 "propose(s) constitutional amendment to Article 12, Section 3 and Section 5 of the CNMI Constitution to extend the term of leaseholds from 55 to 99 years and to change the definition of corporations permitting minority interests by persons not of Northern Marianas descent."

At the outset, neither HLI 18-05 nor SLI 18-02 presents background information by way of a committee report to explain the rationale for the proposals, or for that matter, provide a cost-benefit analysis at least.

Providing background information for any proposal, especially major changes to existing policies, is critical. Making fundamental changes to governing core principles on public or private land belonging to persons of Northern Marianas descent is no different from passing a casino bill without the benefit of a public hearing, cost-benefit analysis, or thorough discussion, subjecting the legislation to impartial research study. It is important that the Legislature first undertake a formal assessment on the impact of Article 8, Section 805 of the Covenant and applying a heightened level of scrutiny to public or NMD lands based on the following issues: 1. Is land ownership still an enduring feature of the local CNMI culture and tradition? 2. If so, to what extent have the people been protected from "exploitation" by unscrupulous real property transactions? 3. Has the protection embedded in the Covenant and CNMI Constitution contributed significantly to the economic advancement of the local people? 4. Has this safeguard mechanism impacted the goal of self-sufficiency as it was envisioned in the Covenant?

Unlike the existing provision in Article 11, Section 5(c) requiring legislative review and approval of public land leasehold of more than five hectares on the first leasehold interest of 25 years and a second legislative review on any lease term extension of additional 15 years from the base lease, HLI 18-05 *limits* legislative review and approval on public land lease until 99 years later after approval of a public land lease or a private land lease, for that matter. The proposed lease term change not only escapes compliance scrutiny but also valuation of public (HLI 18-05) and private land (SLI 18-02) by 44 years based on the proposed extension.

Moreover, HLI 18-05 would violate strict standards of fiduciary care required by the public land co-trustees. The CNMI Supreme Court in *Department of Public Land v. CNMI* (2010 MP 14) defined "fiduciary duty" as "a duty to act for someone else's benefit, while subordinating one's personal interest to that of the other person. It is the highest standard of duty imposed by law." The court buttressed its position further in saying that "courts should strictly scrutinize the actions of the government, holding it to the same strict standards applicable to private trustees." Like the state agency in the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the CNMI dual public land agency in DPL and MPLT as co-trustees of public land also assumes a land *trust* obligation for its people of Northern Marianas descent vested in its own Constitution and assigned this duty to DPL to which strict standards of fiduciary care apply.

As an alternative, the council would rather take a cautionary approach based on the position that instead of extending public land leasehold interest from 40 years to 99 years, the CNMI could still preserve the existing 25-year basic leasehold structure with a 15-year extension option on public land, subject to a one-time lessee *negotiated* right of refusal for a total of 40 years on existing reversionary interests with stipulated improvements on existing (not new) facilities. This restructuring approach not only preserves the existing fundamental public land policy benefiting NMDs and maintains the present facilities. This proviso would also encourage development of unused leased public land. Restructuring also benefits the lessee through opportunity cost savings and extended cost recovery of amortized base investments not limited to a combination of incentives subject for negotiation during the renewal process. This creative approach would revitalize and spur secondary investments in existing facilities in the Commonwealth, especially on Tinian and Rota, including Pagan. Such change would also help in reviving the real estate market benefiting landowners, real estate brokers, investors, secondary market financing, attorneys, accountants, and the local revenue generation and local jobs. Restructuring leasehold interest in public lands would provide a stable secondary market environment for secondary financing, secondary investment, banking and other secondary multiplier economic wealth and job creations.

The same restructuring concept could be applied to private land lease term in SLI 18-02. Instead of a direct change in term from 55 to 99 years as proposed in HLI 18-02, the suggested approach with

See BORJA on Next Page

Finana`guen Mañainata

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Unu gi ma`ug yan sumen probichosu na finana`guen mañainata i sensian hinimidde. Estague` na pisu sumede hit umaksepta kinententu gi hafa guinahata kumu mañgilisyanu.

Este na sensia kumonbibida halom gi gima`ta fina` suette. Kada mattu ennau na suette, maseñala kumu ayudu yan benefisiu para hagu yan familiamu.

Huñgan, guaha `nai ha gacha` hit induktu lau temporariamente. Bes enkuando, tinahgue ni otru bendision ni mafattu ginen hilu`. Ti un` fañaluda nit i tihoñg-mu.

Sumen magahet lokue` na i talu` na patte gi ha`anita tatnai gaige kabales i balansia na fina` lugat dumeskansa. Todu i tiempu guaha `nai mahñgag ya man-matompu` `sino basnag hit. Muñga hinalañg. Kahulu` ya un` kontinua mamokat sa` fitme siempre kareramu.

Buente pot fitme makreansaghu bandan relihion yan hinimidde na tatnai mattu giya guahu para bai` fañaluda ni tihoñg otru. Kontentuyu` gi haf` guaha sa` todu gaige gi menahu ginen minasahalomhu. I kabales na lahe debi u ketuñgu` ginen manu mage haf` gaige gi lamasan sena.

Tat pisu yan eskaleran pinepble tihu fatoigue. Ti hu deskansaye. Adumidide` sige hu akanteha man-estudia, umeskuela ni dinaña`e finanaguen mañainahu pot no bai repite i sumen miserapble na finaposhu. Gi mismu tiempu, i regaluhu lamayot patte ginen hilu` mina` hu komprende ginen manuyu` mage yan haye-yu` umakompapaña gi karerahu. Tat mas ke Nanalibreghu!

Gi hilu` hineñgge yan hinimidde, libianu hit man-daña pot para ta fan adiñgan kabales haf` mauleg pot futturon famaguonta. Este na eskalera sumede sanu yan kabales na inanalisan todu asuntota pot hita mismu.

Siña ta chogue. Maila` ta chogue!

Mafa` Segne Otru

Tatnai man`li`eyu` otru tautau ni paire man-atan problema ke natibu. Todu ha tuñgu` fuera de guiya mismu na tiha tuñgu` i hafa` ha tutuñgu`. Diberas.

Guaha un` tiu-hu todu ha tuñgu`. Lau tatnai bumisnis `sino maempleha manu `nai ma-appunta tatkilu` na puestu. Faisen maseha hafa sa` ensegidas palagpag sikosña. Diberas.

Sige pa`gu man-afaisen hit ni probleman monedan familia. Todu ta sogne fuera de hita mismu. Na ti magahet na mañaunau hit umelihe man-ma`gasta deste 1977? Haye man-gaige gi timon?

Kontodu i hagas tafa` fagas pachotta kumu segne man-yayas. Man-hanau man-bakasion ya ni unu tumuñgu` kau u bira siha. O`sun man-mafa` si kopas. Gupot! Pa`gu `nai man-hinigua` hit mismu ni mutuñg pañalesta.

Lastron tata gi inai

Sessu huna` setbe i patgon gi kanton tasi ni tumatitiye lastron tataña lamayot patte pot inigan para tafan ekuñgog kabales finu` saina.

Todu fina` katsada, sabana, kanton yan taduñg tasi, esta manginen ennau mina` man-ma-apapagat hit haf` che`chu` echu tautau.

Gi hilu` pinasensia, sige ha` man-adiñgan pot para minaulegta. Na`e animu lau bes enkuando deskansan ñaihon ya un` ñgiñge` i fresku na nina`lagun kafe yan `an utut cha`guan gi oriya. Ayu siempre `nai un` li`e benefisiun finu` niha.

Otru asuntota

Gi un` lepblu, hu totpe kuestion: Hafa "justisia" yan hafa sustansiaña? Gai minakat na asuntu sa` tatnai hu hassu kabales haf` tinatteña. Hasan lokue` ta hassu diariamente este na asuntu.

Dispues ma-eksplika na soluke` siña un` atan i umisau yan ti umisau parehu `nai kabales un` komprende sustansian i palabra. Ginen este na pisu `nai un` gana kinemprenden un` tomtum.

■■■

`Nai sessuyu` tumekin antes, guaha `nai lumi`ufyu` para bai li`e haf na guihan man-gaige. Faye mampos i tataketiyun. Un` ratutu ha` man-galope huyuñg. Kulan makreansa umeskapa. Ni kuantu na lañgse ni un` biahe `nai gatdun. Dios mihu.

■■■

`Nai matai i kareta gi kanton chalan, mañañgane tiuhu na umapunu` i kandet san mena sa` u hokog gaselina. Dios mihu!

■■■

Ti malagu` un` prohimu umamotsa fina` katne pot Bietnes Santu. Sinañgane ni amiguña, "Halom ya un` chochu dispues falag i gima` Yuus ya un` konfisat. Ennau `nai na mana` guaha konfisinariu para i man-i`isau". Dios tiampare!

■■■

`Nai mattu oran kumomotgan, kahulu` un` pitbetsu para u saunau. Ni ñañgon ni amiguña na u fata`choñg ya u ketu. "Kumu un` atrebi hau kumomotgan, pinateg gui`eñgmu as San Pedro ni manadan isaumu". Matachoñg ya matman.

■■■

Hafa mohon para tafan ma-offrese ni man-kandidadatu para mayot. Mas programan galagu, manhokan basula gi kantun chalan, yan man-utut cha`guan gi katsada? Che`chu` atkatde este pat patte gi obligasion DPW yan DNLR? Ke pues fan man-applika gi dos depattamentu ya hamyu `in fan na`gasgas. `An tinahoñg tautau, guaha 31 unu gi hegsu` I Deni` numesessita cho`chu` lokue`.

BORJA

From Page 10

public lands lease term above could similarly be applied, whereby the *lessee* is provided a one-time lessee *negotiated* right of refusal of 25 years on existing reversionary interests subject to stipulated improvements on existing (not new) facilities. Applying the restructuring model will eliminate the likely developments of sham corporations formed for purposes of owning land in the CNMI that are reserved for NMDs. The application and effect of SLI 18-02 would change real property ownership by corporations at 100 percent NMDs directors under the existing law by allowing the so-called 51 percent stock ownership of a single individual and 49 percent corporation or any derivative combination thereof the legal capacity to own land in the CNMI protected in Article 12 and applicable section in the Covenant. This approach is unnecessary at best and a surreptitious way of circumventing the existing protection on NMDs at worst, and therefore should not replace the present ability of legitimate CNMI domiciled corporations to own land in the CNMI.

The suggested restructuring approach described above on public lands comports Rota Sen. Victor Hocog's amended legislation to include the Northern Islands that was not initially part of the 2000 CNMI Free Trade Zone, referenced in Public Law 18-16 (2013), a law "designed to stimulate and facilitate *economic growth and development*" in the Northern Islands (Pagan), in furtherance of the creation of a comprehensive and enduring free trade zone designations on Saipan, Tinian, Rota and the Northern Islands.

Ultimately, the legislature should begin considering re-examining the selection criteria to be a member of the Marianas Public Land Trustees, by immediately assigning or vesting responsibility for appointment to the justices of the Supreme Court. This will take the politics out of the NMD corporation and operate based strictly on fiduciary duty and care for the beneficiaries, the people of Northern Marianas descent, collective owners of public lands in the CNMI. The trustee appointment should be for a term of 10 years based on qualifying selection criteria, such as those with business, investment and finance, strategic planning and policy setting, etc.

The significance of the above concern is framed in a 2010 CNMI Supreme Court decision on *Department of Public Land v. CNMI* (2010 MP 14, para 31).

The framers of the Constitution made clear the importance of land to the people of the Commonwealth: land is the only significant asset that the people of the Commonwealth have. There are no substantial mineral resources; there is no large manufacturing enterprise capable of sustaining large numbers or people; there is no valuable location on important trade routes. Given the lack of other resources of economic development, the framers set up a constitutional institution to take advantage of the Commonwealth's most valuable asset—land—for the benefit of the people of Northern Marianas descent. That institution is the Public Land Trust. If the Legislature, in a moment of economic distress, can redirect the moneys generated from the public lands away from the Trust, the Trust will not only be defunded but it will also cease to serve the constitutional functions for which it was created.

HLI 18-05, as it stands, would run afoul with the constitutional provision governing the disposition of public lands. In addition to commercial leasing, DPL is constitutionally obligated to manage a homestead program from the same public land inventory. If DPL is allowed to lease for a single 99-year lease term much of the public land as proposed, in order to maximize the economic value of the trust and its beneficiaries, then little, if any, land would be left for homesteads. The suspension of the homestead program on Saipan, for instance, due a dwindling supply of land clearly points to how the framers of the CNMI Constitution would not have planned for commercial leasing over the beneficiaries of the trust not having access to homesteads.

In other words, HLI 18-05, like the earlier HLI 18-06 the council filed written comments on, is a simple proposal but calls for in-depth examination, notwithstanding it being an exceedingly simple but fundamental permanent *change* in the existing fundamental policy governing public lands collectively belonging to persons of Northern Marianas descent in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands pursuant to the NMI Constitution.

If passed, HLI 18-05 would infringe upon, implicate, and practically effect an unintended transfer of public land ownership interests now presently belonging collectively to persons of NMD, and give public lands to foreign-money interests. These are vested inter-generational ancestral real properties ownership rights and interests collectively owned by persons of NMD since pre-latte period to "discovery," post-war period, and now as a self-governing Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and enshrined in the Covenant, the NMI Constitution, enabling local statutes, and the customs and traditions of the people of the land.

Section 805 of the Covenant clearly states that "notwithstanding the other provisions of this Covenant, or those provisions of the [U.S.] Constitution, treatises or laws of the United States applicable to the Northern Mariana islands, the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands, in view of the ownership of land for the culture and tradition of the people of the Northern Islands, and in order to protect them against exploitation and to promote their economic advancement and self-sufficiency, will regulate the alienation of permanent and long-term interests in real property so as to restrict the acquisition of such interests to persons of Northern Mariana islands descent" and "regulate the extent to which a person may own or hold land which is now public land."

This specific provision in the Covenant is embraced by both the U.S. and the CNMI, as incorporated in the NMI Constitution in 1978 and has since remained the beacon for the NMDs that leaders were privileged to have had the duty and honor to faithfully uphold their solemn oath then and without any compelling reason for the present leaders to now denigrate, or worse, to remove Article 12 on land alienation which unambiguously comports with Section 805 of the Covenant.

SLI 18-02 proposes two constitutional amendments to Article 12: Section 3 and Section 5. Not only will Section 3 extend the term of leaseholds from 55 to 99 years, but Section 5 will change the definition of corporations permitting minority interests by persons not of Northern Marianas descent.

Amending Section 5 and Section 6 in the Constitution would not increase business activities or improve the local investment environment as imagined by proponents of HLI 18-05 and SLI 18-02 for the simple reality that, while the CNMI appears to think of itself in isolation, it is very much part of and affected by global events, such as the slumping global economy and the tightened transnational financing for real estate and related overseas development. When the world economy was robust then, transnational overseas development financing of real estate was too, for instance, not because of the CNMI's 55-year lease term. Or for that matter, the CNMI's proposed 99-year term that would be an incentive. This theory flies in the face of a better option that is already in place in the CNMI: a fee ownership for non-NMDs already available in the CNMI on condominium investment constructed on private land above the first floor. Perhaps, this needs to be revisited to find out whether it is working or not.

On the other hand, manipulating the Article 12 restriction by enabling a corporate entity consisting of NMD and non-NMD owners to own land completely undermines and compromises the fundamental principle undergirding the fundamental provisions of the Covenant and the implementing provisions of the CNMI Constitution.

It may be worth as a reminder also that Article 18 Section 5 (c), a subsection later added to the NMI Constitution (1999) defines 'voters' as used in subsection 5(a) above shall be limited to eligible voters under Article 7 who are also (underscored) persons of Northern Marianas descent as described in Article 12, Section 4, and the term 'votes cast' as used in subsection 5(b) shall mean the votes cast by such voters." This means that any issue on NMD land or related issue(s) is reserved for NMDs to decide, not a buy-and-sell commodity available on the streets at home or abroad.

The proposed permanent change in fundamental NMD land policy will permanently alter the fiduciary management of public lands for homesteading and commercial development, and de-prioritize the timely development, allocation, and distribution of public lands for homesteading directly benefiting persons of Northern Marianas descent.

Accordingly, the leadership of the 12th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council respectfully urges serious consideration in making perfecting amendments to HLI 18-05 under the restructuring scheme outlined above.

Ramon B. Camacho
Chairman, 12th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

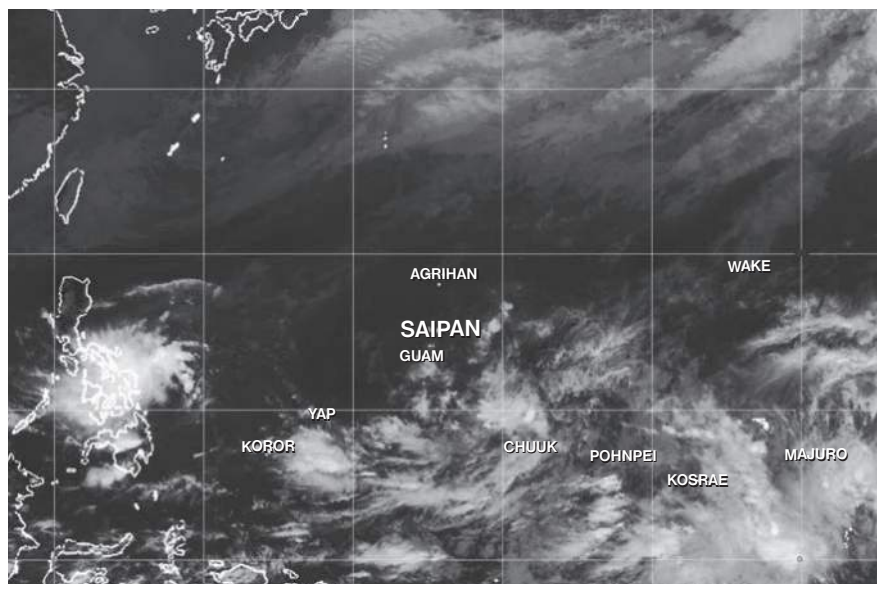
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼78
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲70	▼66
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼50
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼70
Honolulu	Sunny	▲83	▼71
London	Mostly Sunny	▲58	▼38
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼59
Manila	Cloudy	▲85	▼79
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼49
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼72
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲69	▼57
Osaka	Sunny	▲67	▼50
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲58	▼38
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼54
Rome	Showers	▲65	▼45
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼42
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼52
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼47
Tokyo	Sunny	▲71	▼51
Washington, DC	Rain	▲69	▼33

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A trough extends southwestward from near 25N165E to beyond 130E at 15N. Patchy clouds and showers are seen along and up to 250 miles northwest of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough meanders southeastward from the remnants of Tropical Depression Peipah centered northwest of Koror near 11N128E through two weak circulations, one in the vicinity of Chuuk near 7N151E and the other south-southeast of Majuro near 2N172E to end near EQ178E. Extensive cloudiness is found over much of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands between the equator and 10N from 138E to the date line while scattered showers and isolated isolated thunderstorms are present over portions of Chuuk and Pohnpei within 250 miles of a line from 5N138E to 10N159E near Kosrae and Majuro south of a line from 3N160E to 8N180 and between Kwajalein and Kosrae within 80 miles of a line from 11N163E to 6N167E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:42 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
8:22 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
3:04 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
9:19 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:03 AM	6:31 PM
Wednesday	6:03 AM	6:32 PM
Thursday	6:02 AM	6:32 PM
Friday	6:01 AM	6:32 PM
Saturday	6:01 AM	6:32 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:30 PM	5:44 AM
Wednesday	7:25 PM	6:29 AM
Thursday	8:21 PM	7:16 AM
Friday	9:19 PM	8:08 AM
Saturday	10:16 PM	9:02 AM

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  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 2, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	6:55pm	8:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA5038	7:45pm	8:35pm	2, 6
UA5078	8:10pm	9:00pm	3

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	5:35pm	6:10pm	2, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	6:40pm	7:15pm	2, 6

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11: 05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	10:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5038	5:35pm	7:15pm	2, 6 via Rota
UA5077	6:50pm	7:40pm	3

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	6:55pm	7:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	8:00pm	8:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:20pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:45am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5039	9:55am	6:25pm	7 via Guam
UA190/5038	9:55am	7:15pm	6 via Rota-Guam
UA190/5077	9:55am	7:40pm	3 via Guam
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA184/5038	10:25pm	7:15pm+1	1 via Rota-Guam
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/5038	11:30pm	7:15pm+1	5 via Rota-Guam

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

Business

Sebelius: Health care launch 'terribly flawed'

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration's timeline for having ready the new health care law's online sign-up system "was just flat out wrong," outgoing Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said in an interview that aired Sunday.

The departing health chief also said the two months when healthcare.gov was plagued with technical problems were "a pretty dismal time" and the low point of her five-year tenure. But she defended the law's impact and said millions of Americans now have access to health care because of it.

"People have competitive choices and real information for the first time ever in this insurance market," said Sebelius, who last week announced her resignation.

But she acknowledged the rocky rollout for the online sign-up system fraught with technical problems that left Americans frustrated.

"Clearly, the estimate that it was ready to go Oct. 1 was just flat out wrong," Sebelius said.

HealthCare.gov was envisioned as the principal place for people to buy insurance under Obama's health care law. But its first few weeks were an embarrassment for the administration and its allies.

"Well, I think there's no question—and I've said this many times—that the launch of the website was terribly flawed and terribly difficult," Sebelius said.

Obama set a Dec. 1 deadline to have the website repaired, a move that left Sebelius nervous, she said. "Having failed once at the front of October, the first of December became a critical juncture," she said. "That was a pretty scary date."

Sebelius' resignation comes just a week after sign-ups for insurance coverage ended, enrolling 7.1 million people and exceeding initial expectations. Enrollment has since increased to 7.5 million as people were given extra time to complete applications.

The departing secretary said she decided after the 2012 presidential election that she wanted to leave the administration but decided to stay through the sign-up period. Sebelius said Obama did not try to convince her to stay through the end of his term.

"I thought it was fair to either commit till January of 2017 or leave with enough time that he would get a strong, competent leader," Sebelius said.

Sebelius spoke to NBC's "Meet the Press."

AP

President Barack Obama walks with outgoing Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, right, and his nominee to replace her, Budget Director Sylvia Mathews Burwell, as they leave the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, Friday, April 11, 2014, where the president made the announcment.

Politics test Silicon Valley's Russian ties

SAN MATEO, Calif. (AP)—Entrepreneurs and investors say Silicon Valley's fast-growing financial ties with Russia's tech sector are being slowed down by current political tensions between the White House and the Kremlin.

"It's safe to say a lot of investors here are taking a step back to see how the situation will unfold," said Alexandra Johnson, who manages a $100 million venture fund called DFJ VTP Aurora, a Menlo Park, Calif., branch of Russian bank VTB.

For decades, Russia's sophisticated scientists and engineers remained at arm's length from Silicon Valley's venture capitalists and marketing mavens. That changed in recent years with a flurry of investment, largely sparked in 2010 when then-Russian President Dmitry Medvedev visited the region and met with high-tech leaders.

Russians investors, including billionaire Yuri Milner, who has large stakes in Facebook and Twitter, poured an estimated $2 billion into U.S. tech firms over the past three years, according to Johnson, who organized a technology symposium with venture capitalists and entrepreneurs last month in San Mateo, south of San Francisco.

But Silicon Valley entrepreneurs and investors fear negative economic fallout from Russia's takeover of Crimea, its troop buildup near Ukraine's border and its attempts to compel constitutional changes in that country, markedly raising political tensions with the West.

Secretary of State John Kerry has charged Russia with "creating a climate of fear and intimidation" and the Obama administration has frozen assets and revoked visas of some Russian officials and their associates.

Among the concerns in this technology center are whether visa limits will make it hard for business travel or for scientists to relocate. In addition, economic sanctions could tighten the flow of dollars between tech sectors in both countries. And for those U.S. and Russian firms with ties to Ukraine, rumors of a draft are fanning fears that young entrepreneurs and engineers will have to close up shop and fight.

Experts say an investment slowdown will be temporary and will not untrack rapidly growing, lucrative U.S.- Russia business relationships in the long run.

Axel Tillmann, who invests Russian venture capital on behalf of government-sponsored RVC-USA, said the tensions are definitely going to "slow things down for a while," describing a two- to three-month suspension of additional investment by Russian government funds in tech firms.

Chances of getting audited by IRS lowest in years

WASHINGTON (AP)—As millions of Americans race to meet Tuesday's tax deadline, their chances of getting audited are lower than they have been in years.

Budget cuts and new responsibilities are straining the Internal Revenue Service's ability to police tax returns. This year, the IRS will have fewer agents auditing returns than at any time since at least the 1980s.

Taxpayer services are suffering, too, with millions of phone calls to the IRS going unanswered.

"We keep going after the people who look like the worst of the bad guys," IRS Commissioner John Koskinen said in an interview. "But there are going to be some people that we should catch, either in terms of collecting the revenue from them or prosecuting them, that we're not going to catch."

Better technology is helping to offset some budget cuts.

If you report making $40,000 in wages and your employer tells the IRS you made $50,000, the agency's computers probably will catch that. The same is true for investment income and many common deductions that are reported to the IRS by financial institutions.

But if you operate a business that deals in cash, with income or expenses that are not independently reported to the IRS, your chances of getting caught are lower than they have been in years.

Last year, the IRS audited less than 1 percent of all returns from individuals, the lowest rate since 2005. This year, Koskinen said, "The numbers will go down."

Koskinen was confirmed as IRS commissioner in December. He took over an agency under siege on several fronts.

Last year, the IRS acknowledged agents improperly singled out conservative groups for extra scrutiny when they applied for tax-exempt status from 2010 to 2012. The revelation has led to five ongoing investigations, including three by congressional committees, and outraged lawmakers who control the agency's budget.

The IRS also is implementing large parts of President Barack Obama's health law, including enforcing the mandate that most people get health insurance. Republicans in Congress abhor the law, putting another bull's-eye on the agency's back.

The animosity is reflected in the IRS budget, which has declined from $12.1 billion in 2010 to $11.3 billion in the current budget year.

Obama has proposed a 10 percent increase for next year; Republicans are balking.

Rep. Ander Crenshaw, R-Fla., chairman of the House subcommittee that oversees the IRS budget, called the request "both meaningless and pointless" because it exceeds spending caps already set by Congress.

UN climate report balances science and politics

BERLIN (AP)—After racing against the clock in an all-night session, the U.N.'s expert panel on climate change was putting the final touches Saturday on a scientific guide to help governments, industries and regular people take action to stop global warming from reaching dangerous levels.

As always when the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change adopts one of its high-profile reports, the weeklong talks in Berlin were slowed by wrangling between scientists and governments over which words, charts and tables to use in the roughly 30-page summary of a much bigger scientific report.

The painstaking process is meant to clarify the complex world of climate science to non-scientists but it also reflects the brinksmanship that characterizes international talks on climate action—so far unsuccessful in their goal to stop the rise of man-made carbon emissions blamed for global warming.

"Sometimes it's framed as if what the IPCC does is `just the facts, ma'am,' and that of course is not accurate," said Steve Rayner, an Oxford scientist who has taken part in three of the IPCC's previous assessments, but not this one.

"It's not pure science and it's not just politics," but a blend of both, Rayner said.

In Berlin, the politics showed through in a dispute over how to categorize countries in graphs showing the world's carbon emissions, which are currently growing the fastest in China and other developing countries. Like many scientific studies, the IPCC draft used a breakdown of emissions from low, lower-middle, upper-middle and high income countries.

Some developing countries objected and wanted the graphs to follow the example of U.N. climate talks and use just two categories—developed and developing—according to three participants who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the IPCC session was closed to the public.

In earlier submitted comments obtained by AP, the U.S. suggested footnotes indicating where readers could "view specific countries listed in each category in addition to the income brackets."

Nation

Gunman kills 3 at Kansas City-area Jewish sites

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. (AP)—A gunman opened fire outside of a Jewish community center on Sunday, killing a doctor and his teenage grandson before heading to a Jewish retirement community a few blocks away and killing someone else, authorities said.

Police arrested the suspected assailant in an elementary school parking lot shortly after the attacks in the Kansas City suburb of Overland Park.

At a news conference, the city's police chief, John Douglass, said the suspect is in his 70s, wasn't from Kansas and wasn't known to area law enforcement. He also said there was no indication that the suspect knew the victims.

"Today is a sad and very tragic day," Douglass said. "As you might imagine we are only three hours into this investigation. There's a lot of innuendo and a lot of assertions going around. There is really very little hard-core information."

Douglass declined to release the names of the victims, citing the need to notify their loved ones first. But the family of the first two people who were shot released a statement later Sunday identifying them as Dr. William Lewis Corporon and his 14-year-old grandson, Reat Griffin Underwood. They were both Christian, and the family thanked members of their church congregation, among other people, for their support.

AP

In this photo provided by KSHB41 Action News, authorities respond the Jewish community center after a shooting in Overland Park, Kan., Sunday, April 13, 2014.

"We take comfort knowing they are together in Heaven," the family said. It asked for privacy to mourn.

Rebecca Sturtevant, a spokeswoman for Overland Park Regional Medical Center, where Reat was taken and where he died, said family members said Corporon and the boy were at the community center so that the high school freshman could try out for KC SuperStar, a singing competition for students.

Douglass said the suspect made several statements to police, "but it's too early to tell you what he may or may not have said." He also said it was too early in the investigation to determine whether there was an anti-Semitic motive for the attacks or if they will be investigated as hate crimes. The Jewish festival of Passover begins Monday.

"We are investigating it as a hate crime. We're investigating it as a criminal act. We haven't ruled out anything. ... Again, we're three hours into it," he said.

Douglass said the suspect first opened fire in the parking lot behind the Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City. Corporon died at the scene and his grandson later died at the hospital. The chief said the suspect then drove to the nearby retirement community, Village Shalom, where he shot and killed a woman or girl. The gunman also shot at two other people during the attacks, but missed them, Douglass said.

Douglass said a shotgun was used in the attacks, and that investigators are also trying to determine if a handgun and assault-style rifle may also have been used.

Police officers were also sent to other Jewish facilities in the area immediately after the shootings, the police chief said.

"Immediately when we learned we had an active shooter we dispatched vehicles to secure and surveil all the active Jewish facilities in the city and other religious institutions which are not Jewish," Douglass said.

The suspect was taken to the Johnson County Detention Center. Johnson County District Attorney Stephen Howe, who attended the news conference along with Barry Grissom, U.S. Attorney for Kansas, said it was too soon to know when the suspect would appear in court.

Corporon, who was a family doctor, leaves behind a wife of 49 years. His grandson, Reat, was an Eagle Scout who loved camping and hunting with his grandfather, father and brother, the family said.

NTSB: No evidence of pre-impact fire in bus crash

RED BLUFF, Calif. (AP)—Federal investigators said Sunday that they haven't found physical evidence confirming a witness' claim that a FedEx truck was on fire before it slammed into a bus carrying high school students, killing 10 people in Northern California.

National Transportation Safety Board member Mark Rosekind said investigators are not ruling out a pre-impact fire, but a fire expert did not find evidence of flames as the truck crossed a median, sideswiped a Nissan Altima and crashed into the bus.

"This is all preliminary and factual information," Rosekind said at a news conference. "We are not ruling anything out."

The bus was carrying 44 Southern California high school students to a free campus tour of Humboldt State University. Many were hoping to become the first in their families to attend college. Five students, three adult chaperones and both drivers died and dozens were injured in Thursday's collision in Orland, a small city about 100 miles north of Sacramento.

Bonnie Duran, who drove the Altima and survived with minor injuries, told investigators and reporters Saturday that she had seen flames emerging from the lower rear of the truck's cab as it approached her car. The bus was gutted and the truck was a mangled mess after an explosion sent flames towering and black smoke billowing, making it difficult for investigators to track the source of the fire.

Rosekind said a blood test of the FedEx truck driver could indicate whether he inhaled smoke before his death. A family member told the Sacramento Bee that the truck driver was Tim Evans, 32, of Elk Grove, Calif.

On the day of the crash, the Sacramento-based driver delivered freight to Weed, Calif., and returned with an empty semi-trailer and a partially loaded semi-trailer, although investigators do not know the contents.

The biggest questions for investigators include why the truck had left its lane and did not leave behind tire marks, suggesting the driver did not brake. The investigation will review maintenance records and the driver's medical history, experience and potential impairment.

The bus' black box-style electronic control module was recovered and will be analyzed. The truck's device was destroyed, but investigators will take other steps to analyze its speed and maneuvering.

Tribe banks on syrup for sweet relief from poverty

PRENTISS TOWNSHIP, Maine (AP)—The members of the Passamaquoddy tribe have looked under their feet for a bottled water plant and have turned to the sky for a wind farm. But it's the forest that will be the first to deliver as the impoverished tribe seeks to become one of the biggest maple syrup operations in Maine.

The tribe, which owns 60,000 acres of land near the Canadian border in western Maine, has big plans for the syrup operation deep in the woods. Operating this season with nearly 3,000 taps, the tribe plans to expand over the next three years to 60,000.

The goal isn't to create a maple syrup empire, but rather to bring hope and stability to a tribe with soaring joblessness and poverty, said Indian Township Chief Joseph Socobasin.

"It creates an opportunity that we've never had," Socobasin said of the operation, one of several economic development projects underway for a tribe with unemployment topping 60 percent.

The project falls in line with a tribal movement nationwide to get beyond casinos and federal dollars to create self-sustaining operations that can create spinoff jobs, said Carl Artman, a Milwaukee-based lawyer who advises tribes on economic development. Across the country, tribes are getting into oil and gas operations and real estate development. In Florida, for instance, the Seminoles own the popular Hard Rock brand.

For the Passamaquoddies, the syrup project is appealing because of tribal roots. Native Americans were making maple syrup long before the first European settlers arrived. It's also attractive because it's a renewable resource and allows tribal members to spend time with nature.

The land is true wilderness, covered in 3 feet of snowpack even in April and teeming with moose, deer and lynx. There's even a bear den among the tapped trees.

ACROSS THE NATION

Utah woman arrested after 7 dead babies found

PLEASANT GROVE, Utah (AP)—A Utah woman accused of killing several babies she gave birth to over 10 years was arrested Sunday after police discovered seven tiny bodies stuffed in separate cardboard boxes in the garage of her former home. Megan Huntsman, 39, who lived in the Pleasant Grove home until three years ago, had the infants between 1996 and 2006, investigators said. Neighbors in the middle-class neighborhood of mostly older homes 35 miles south of Salt Lake City say they were shocked by the accusations and perplexed that the woman's older children still living in the home didn't know their mother was pregnant or notice anything suspicious.

'I AM A BULLY' sign-holder calls sentence unfair

SOUTH EUCLID, Ohio (AP)—An Ohio man who spent hours on a street corner Sunday with a sign declaring he's a bully says that the punishment in a disorderly conduct case was unfair and that the judge who sentenced him has ruined his life. Sixty-two-year-old Edmond Aviv mostly ignored honking horns and people who stopped by to talk with him in South Euclid, the Northeast Ohio Media Group reported. "The judge destroyed me," Aviv said. "This isn't fair at all." The sentence stemmed from a neighborhood dispute in which a woman said Aviv had bullied her and her disabled children for years. Aviv pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor disorderly conduct charge, and Municipal Court Judge Gayle Williams-Byers ordered him to display the sign for five hours Sunday as part of his sentence.

Asia

Official says sub will be used in search for jet

PERTH, Australia (AP)—Search crews will send a robotic submarine deep into the Indian Ocean on Monday for the first time to try to determine whether underwater signals detected by sound-locating equipment are from the missing Malaysian plane's black boxes, the leader of the search effort said.

The crew on board the Australian navy's Ocean Shield will launch the unmanned underwater vehicle Monday evening, said Angus Houston, the head of a joint agency coordinating the search off Australia's west coast. The Bluefin 21 autonomous sub can create a three-dimensional sonar map of the area to chart any debris on the seafloor.

The move comes after crews picked up a series of underwater sounds over the past two weeks that were consistent with an aircraft's black boxes.

"We haven't had a single detection in six days, so I guess it's time to go under water," Houston said.

Prime Minister Tony Abbott raised hopes last week when he said authorities were "confident" the four underwater signals that have been detected are coming from the black boxes on Flight 370, which vanished March 8 during a flight from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing.

But Houston warned that while the signals are a promising lead, the public needs to be realistic about the challenges facing search crews, who are contending with an extremely remote, deep patch of ocean.

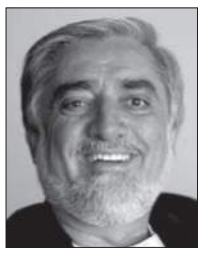
"I would caution you against raising hopes that the deployment of the autonomous underwater vehicle will result in the detection of the aircraft wreckage—it may not," Houston said. "However, this is the best lead we have, and it must be pursued vigorously. Again, I emphasize that this will be a slow and painstaking process."

The plane's two black boxes, which contain flight data and cockpit voice recordings, have beacons that emit "pings" so they can be more easily found, but the beacons' batteries last only about a month, and it has been more than a month since the plane vanished.

Abdullah, Ghani lead in partial Afghan vote tally

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Two clear front-runners emerged in Afghanistan's presidential election as partial results released Sunday showed a tight race that increasingly appears destined for a runoff vote.

Both candidates promise a fresh start with the West, vowing to sign a security pact with the United States that has been rejected by President Hamid Karzai, but their fierce rivalry has raised the possibility of divisive campaigning in what so far has been a relatively peaceful vote.


Abdullah

With 10 percent of the ballots counted, Abdullah Abdullah, who was Karzai's main rival in his fraud-marred re-election in 2009, had 41.9 percent of the vote. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, a former finance minister and World Bank official, followed with 37.6 percent. Zalmai Rassoul, another former foreign minister widely considered as Karzai's pick, was a distant third with 9.8 percent.

Karzai himself was constitutionally barred from seeking a third term.

Officials cautioned the vote count could change as full preliminary results won't be due until April 24, but the early numbers suggest none of the eight candidates likely will get the outright majority needed to avoid a runoff.

Shortly after officials announced the results, Abdullah told The Associated Press he has held talks with Rassoul but it was premature to discuss a possible alliance. The 53 year old said he will seek a unity government if elected, but he only saw one role for Ghani.

Pakistan: Next round of Taliban talks coming soon

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The next round of direct peace talks with the Pakistani Taliban will take place in the coming days, the country's interior minister said Sunday, denying reports that the negotiations were deadlocked.

"The next meeting, which is due to take place over the next few days, will come up with a comprehensive agenda from both sides," Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan told journalists at a news conference.

The Pakistani government elected last May has been pursuing negotiations instead of military operations as a way to deal with the militant violence that has plagued the country for years and killed thousands. They have held one round of direct talks so far.

The minister denied reports the country's powerful military is against the talks, saying that most of the prisoners the government has ordered released to facilitate the negotiations were being held in military internment centers.

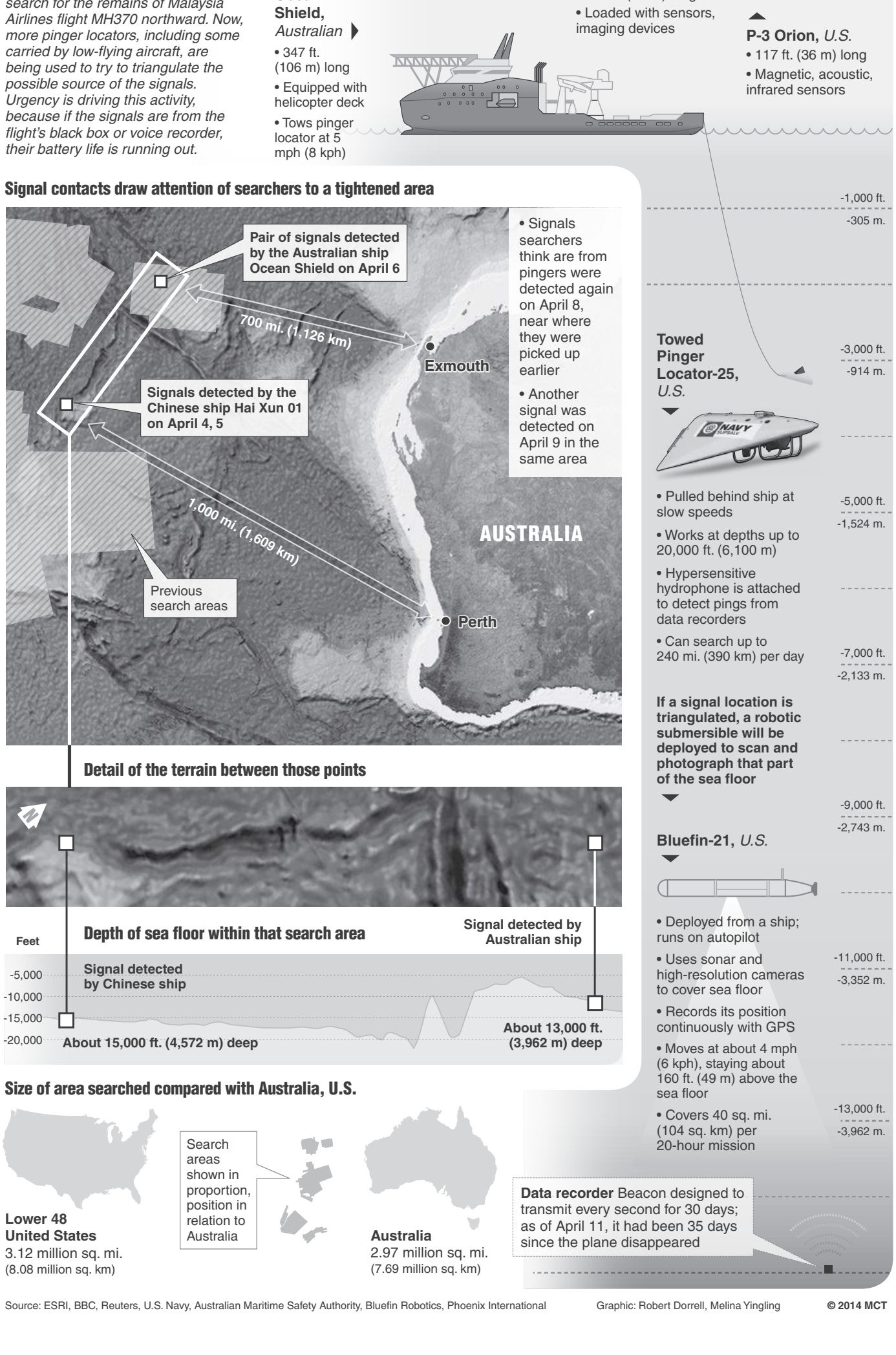
"How is it possible that we release these prisoners without the army's consent?" he asked.

The government is releasing roughly 30 prisoners requested by the Taliban, the minister said, and now it's up to the Taliban to respond. He denied that those released were combatants or commanders, but offered no description of who they were, why they were arrested or how long they had been in military custody.

The government has requested that the Pakistani Taliban release prisoners they are believed to be holding, he said, specifically mentioning the sons of former Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani and of assassinated politician Salman Taseer, as well as the vice chancellor of the University of Peshawar.

Search for missing jet intensifies over subsea area

When a Chinese ship towing a pinger locator picked up a signal on April 4 and again the next day, it drove the search for the remains of Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 northward. Now, more pinger locators, including some carried by low-flying aircraft, are being used to try to triangulate the possible source of the signals. Urgency is driving this activity, because if the signals are from the flight's black box or voice recorder, their battery life is running out.


Involved in the search
Ocean Shield, Australian
• 347 ft. (106 m) long
• Equipped with helicopter deck
• Tows pinger locator at 5 mph (8 kph)
P-8A Poseidon, U.S.
• 129 ft. (39 m) long
• Loaded with sensors, imaging devices
P-3 Orion, U.S.
• 117 ft. (36 m) long
• Magnetic, acoustic, infrared sensors
Signal contacts draw attention of searchers to a tightened area
Pair of signals detected by the Australian ship Ocean Shield on April 6
700 mi. (1,126 km)
Exmouth
Signals detected by the Chinese ship Hai Xun 01 on April 4, 5
1,000 mi. (1,609 km)
Previous search areas
Perth
AUSTRALIA
• Signals searchers think are from pingers were detected again on April 8, near where they were picked up earlier
• Another signal was detected on April 9 in the same area
Detail of the terrain between those points
Feet
-5,000
-10,000
-15,000
-20,000
Depth of sea floor within that search area
Signal detected by Chinese ship
About 15,000 ft. (4,572 m) deep
Signal detected by Australian ship
About 13,000 ft. (3,962 m) deep
Size of area searched compared with Australia, U.S.
Lower 48 United States
3.12 million sq. mi.
(8.08 million sq. km)
Search areas shown in proportion, position in relation to Australia
Australia
2.97 million sq. mi.
(7.69 million sq. km)
-1,000 ft.
-305 m.
Towed Pinger Locator-25, U.S.
-3,000 ft.
-914 m.
• Pulled behind ship at slow speeds
• Works at depths up to 20,000 ft. (6,100 m)
• Hypersensitive hydrophone is attached to detect pings from data recorders
• Can search up to 240 mi. (390 km) per day
-5,000 ft.
-1,524 m.
-7,000 ft.
-2,133 m.
If a signal location is triangulated, a robotic submersible will be deployed to scan and photograph that part of the sea floor
-9,000 ft.
-2,743 m.
Bluefin-21, U.S.
• Deployed from a ship; runs on autopilot
• Uses sonar and high-resolution cameras to cover sea floor
• Records its position continuously with GPS
• Moves at about 4 mph (6 kph), staying about 160 ft. (49 m) above the sea floor
• Covers 40 sq. mi. (104 sq. km) per 20-hour mission
-11,000 ft.
-3,352 m.
-13,000 ft.
-3,962 m.
Data recorder Beacon designed to transmit every second for 30 days; as of April 11, it had been 35 days since the plane disappeared

Source: ESRI, BBC, Reuters, U.S. Navy, Australian Maritime Safety Authority, Bluefin Robotics, Phoenix International

Graphic: Robert Dorrell, Melina Yingling

© 2014 MCT

World

Kiev government to deploy troops in Ukraine's east

DONETSK, Ukraine (AP)—Turning to force to try to restore its authority in the vital industrial east, Ukraine's government announced Sunday it was sending in troops to try to quash an increasingly brazen pro-Russian insurgency, despite repeated warnings from the Kremlin.

Accusing Moscow of fomenting the unrest, Ukrainian President Oleksandr Turchynov said in a televised address that such a "large-scale anti-terrorist operation" would ensure Russia did not "repeat the Crimean scenario in Ukraine's east." Turchynov pledged to offer amnesty to anyone surrendering their weapons by Monday morning.

■ ■ ■

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. Security Council met late Sunday in emergency session as violence escalated in eastern Ukraine, hours before a Monday morning deadline for pro-Russia protesters to lay down their arms or face Ukrainian troops.

Russia called the meeting shortly after Ukrainian special forces exchanged gunfire Sunday with a pro-Russia militia in an eastern city, and at least one security officer was killed and five others wounded. Ukraine's president accused its powerful neighbor of fomenting unrest, and announced that his government would deploy armed forces Monday to quash an increasingly bold pro-Russian insurgency.

"At this moment, Ukraine teeters on the brink," Assistant U.N. Secretary-General Oscar Fernandez-Taranco told Security Council members.

AP

A pro-Russian gunman stands guard at a seized police station in the eastern Ukraine town of Slovyansk on Sunday, April 13, 2014.

■ ■ ■

Reliance on the military is a response that hints at concerns over the reliability of the police, who have often proven unable or unwilling to repel pro-Russian gunmen and other Moscow loyalists from seizing key state facilities. With tens of thousands of Russian troops massed along Ukraine's eastern border, there are fears that Moscow might use unrest in the mainly Russian-speaking region as a pretext for an invasion.

Speaking late Sunday on Russian state television, ousted president Viktor Yanukovych accused the CIA of being behind the new government's decision to turn to force, a claim the CIA denied as "completely false."

Yanukovych claimed that CIA director John Brennan met with Ukraine's new leadership and "in fact sanctioned the use of weapons and provoked bloodshed."

CIA spokesman Dean Boyd said that while the agency doesn't comment on Brennan's travel itinerary, the "claim that director Brennan encouraged Ukrainian authorities to conduct tactical operations inside Ukraine is completely false."

Ukraine now has "one foot into a civil war," Yanukovych declared, flanked by his former prosecutor general and interior minister, the two associates most despised by the protesters whose monthslong demonstrations were ignited by Yanukovych's decision to back away from closer relations with the European Union and turn toward Russia. Yanukovych fled to Russia in February, saying he feared for his life.

Earlier Sunday, Ukrainian special forces exchanged gunfire with a pro-Russia militia outside the eastern city of Slovyansk—the first reported gunbattle in the east, where armed pro-Russian men have seized a number of key government buildings to press their demands for referendums on autonomy and possible annexation by Russia, following the pattern set by the vote in Crimea last month. A Ukrainian security officer was killed and at least two others wounded.

Calling such attacks a "Russian aggression," Interior Minister Arsen Avakov said in a Facebook post Sunday that special forces of up to 12,000 people will be drawn from volunteers who will be tasked with resisting attacks from pro-Russian forces in their local areas.

Russia's Foreign Ministry was quick to dismiss Turchynov's decree as "criminal" and accused Ukrainian officials of using radical neo-Nazi forces.

In an emergency session of the U.N. Security Council late Sunday, Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin denied claims that Moscow was behind the violence.

"It is the West that will determine the opportunity to avoid civil war in Ukraine. Some people, including in this chamber, do not want to see the real reasons for what is happening in Ukraine and are constantly seeing the hand of Moscow in what is going on," Churkin said.

Cost of fighting warming 'modest,' says UN panel

BERLIN (AP)—The cost of keeping global warming in check is "relatively modest," but only if the world acts quickly to reverse the buildup of heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere, the head of the U.N.'s expert panel on climate change said Sunday.

Such gases, mainly CO2 from the burning of fossil fuels, rose on average by 2.2 percent a year in 2000-2010, driven by the use of coal in the power sector, officials said as they launched the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change's report on measures to fight global warming.

Without additional measures to contain emissions, global temperatures will rise about 3 degrees to 4 degrees Celsius (5 degrees to 7 degrees Fahrenheit) by 2100 compared to current levels, the panel said.

"The longer we delay the higher would be the cost," IPCC chairman Rajendra Pachauri told The Associated Press after the panel's weeklong session in Berlin. "But despite that, the point I'm making is that even now, the cost is not something that's going to bring about a major disruption of economic systems. It's well within our reach."

The IPCC, an international body assessing climate science, projected that shifting the energy system from fossil fuels to zero- or low-carbon sources including wind and solar power would reduce consumption growth by about 0.06 percentage points per year, adding that that didn't take into account the economic benefits of reduced climate change. "The loss in consumption is relatively modest," Pachauri said.

The IPCC said the shift would entail a near-quadrupling of low-carbon energy—which in the panel's projections included renewable sources as well as nuclear power and fossil fuel-fired plants equipped with technologies to capture some of the emissions.

Chile fire toll: 12 dead; 2,000 homes destroyed

VALPARAISO, Chile (AP)—Firefighters struggled for a second night early Monday to contain blazes that have killed 12 people, injured 500, destroyed 2,000 homes and forced 10,000 people to flee the densely populated hills that gave this Chilean port city its unique beauty.

Fires they thought were contained 24 hours after they started Saturday kicked up again with Sunday afternoon's winds and raged out of control, threatening more neighborhoods.

With no municipal water or fire hydrants to use, routes to the blazes blocked by narrow streets jammed with abandoned vehicles and countless embers being stoked, fire crews could do little but watch some neighborhoods burn.

From the sky, 20 helicopters and planes were mobilized to drop water on hotspots, but Chile's national emergency office said the battle was far from won.

"This won't be extinguished, not today nor tomorrow," the office tweeted after issuing a new alert when fires kicked up again Sunday afternoon.

The blaze began in a forested ravine next to ramshackle housing on one of Valparaiso's 42 hilltops, and spread quickly. Hot ash rained down over wooden houses and narrow streets. Electricity failed as the fire grew, turning the night sky orange and reducing neighborhoods on six hilltops to ashes.

Schools were closed Monday in the city, since some were damaged and others were overflowing with evacuees.

President Michelle Bachelet toured the shelters and canceled this week's trip to Argentina and Uruguay, ordering her ministers to meet with her Monday morning to explain their responses. "It's a tremendous tragedy. This could be the worst fire in the city's history," she said.

Valparaiso is a picturesque oceanside city of 250,000 people surrounded by hills that form a natural amphitheater. The compact downtown includes Chile's congress and its second-largest port. But most of the people live in the hills, and the city owes its status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site to their colorful homes, built on slopes so steep that many people commute using staircases and cable cars.

But what's beautiful in postcards can be dangerous for those who live there: Many people have built on land not fit for housing, and entire communities lack municipal water connections.

"We are too vulnerable as a city. We have been the builders and architects of our own danger," Valparaiso Mayor Jorge Castro said Sunday in an interview with Chile's 24H channel.

The fires destroyed at least 2,000 houses by Sunday evening, and the death toll rose to 12, Interior Minister Rodrigo Penailillo said. Three of the 12 victims were identified, and the others are so badly burned that DNA tests will be done, the national forensics service said. More than 500 people were treated at hospitals, mostly for smoke inhalation.

WORLD BRIEFS

Pope poses for 'selfies' after Palm Sunday homily

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis, marking Palm Sunday in a packed St. Peter's Square, ignored his prepared homily and spoke entirely off-the-cuff in a remarkable departure from practice. Later, he continued to stray from the script by hopping off his popemobile to pose for "selfies" with young people and also sipping tea passed to him from the crowd. In his homily, Francis called on people, himself included, to look into their own hearts to see how they are living their lives. "Has my life fallen asleep?" Francis asked after listening to a Gospel account of how Jesus' disciples fell asleep shortly before he was betrayed by Judas before his crucifixion. "Am I like Pontius Pilate, who, when he sees the situation is difficult, washes my hands?"

Bus hits truck on Mexico highway; 36 reported dead

VERACRUZ, Mexico (AP)—A passenger bus slammed into a broken-down truck and burst into flames, killing at least 36 people Sunday in southern Mexico, the Veracruz state government reported. Both state and federal officials said that four people survived the crash, which occurred shortly after midnight in the southeastern state of Veracruz. A communique from the state civil defense agency said the victims were business people from the region who were travelling from the Tabasco state capital of Villahermosa to Mexico City. The agency's emergency director, Ricardo Maza Limon, said the victims apparently burned to death inside the bus, which was so badly charred that the tires melted and the markings on its sides were unreadable.

Focus

‘Running priest’ in Philippines campaigns for poor

By CHRIS BRUMMITT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—As the band of protesters approached a red stoplight, a cry went up from the priest leading them: “Run! Run! Run!”

The Rev. Robert Reyes jogged out into the clogged Manila street, raising his hand to the traffic—a small act of disobedience in a life punctuated with them. The group of about 40 followed him at a brisk clip, waving banners with slogans against the eviction of slum dwellers to make way for a new shopping mall.

“Running has a Pied Piper affect,” said Reyes, an activist priest with a buzz cut for whom running, either with others or alone on multi-day ultra-marathons, is a preferred form of protest. “It draws people in.”

For more than 30 years, Reyes, dubbed the “running priest” by the local media, has been a constant critic of corruption in the Philippines and often times the church itself, which he charges has abandoned its obligation to help the poor and sided with those in power in Asia’s largest Roman Catholic nation.

He has spearheaded numerous campaigns, big and small. He’s protested against the tobacco industry after his brother died of lung cancer, and blamed mining companies for environmental degradation. He’s targeted corporate conglomerates, especially mall developers. He opposes the presence of American troops in the country.

Reyes, 59, says Pope Francis’ emphasis on social justice has given him an extra shot of motivation. But his activism and outspokenness has apparently rankled church leaders.

When he was younger, Reyes fit into the church quite well under Manila’s Cardinal Jaime Sin, who was a leading voice in the “people power” campaigns that led to the ouster of the U.S.-backed dictator, President Ferdinand Marcos, in 1986, and later President Joseph Estrada in 2001.

Reyes said his relationship soured irrevocably with church leaders in 2005, when he led a hunger strike in a Manila park against then-President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo over allegations she rigged elections. Asked by a television crew why the bishops were not supporting him, he answered that they had “betrayed God and betrayed the people.”

“After that, it was downhill as far as working for the church was concerned,” he said.

Reyes claims church leaders refused to give him a position as a priest overseeing a parish unless he stopped protesting. So last year, he tried a different tack: After a year of silence and monastic life, he was ordained as a monk in the Franciscan order, which is more sympathetic to his activism.

AP

In this Feb. 20, 2014 photo, Roman Catholic priest Father Robert Reyes, center, jogs with supporters during a protest against the demolition of an informal settlers community that will pave the way for the construction of shopping malls in Quezon city northeast of Manila, Philippines.

The bishops’ conference did not respond to requests for comment.

Reyes unashamedly courts the media, saying doing so is vital in getting the message of social justice to a wider audience. Critics charge he is a self-promoter who jumps from issue to issue, depending on whatever is getting attention.

His friends say his concern for the poor continues when the cameras aren’t around.

“Someone will call up and say, `My father is being taken to hospital, can you come?’ and he will leave, right away, there is no question,” said Dennis Murphy, an American urban poor activist in Manila who has known Reyes for years. “It’s something that comes natural to him. He feels that this is something he should do.”

Reyes’ father worked for an American shipping company in the Philippines, giving him a comfortable childhood before joining the church. Reyes was heavily influenced by liberation theology, a Latin American-inspired view that Jesus’ teachings imbue followers with a duty to fight for social and economic justice, often influenced by Marxist thought.

His father was proud to see him join the church, but didn’t like the direction he was taking.

“Up to his dying day, he would ask, `Why don’t you keep quiet so they can make you a bishop,’” Reyes said. “I would say to him: `It’s too late for that Daddy, I’m on a black list.’”

AP

In this Feb. 20, 2014 photo, Roman Catholic priest Father Robert Reyes holds a megaphone for a speaker to protest the privatization of a government hospital that will pave the way for the construction of shopping malls in Quezon city northeast of Manila, Philippines.

The 2-kilometer (1.5-mile) protest run Reyes organized started amid the ruins of a destroyed slum, where families were still showering in the open and living under tarpaulin. After stretches of walking, it ended at the gates of the country’s housing authority, where Reyes leaped onto the fence and waved a placard, ignoring the unease of the guards posted there.

The run hardly qualified as exercise for Reyes, who in the 1990s ran daily legs of 50 kilometers (30 miles) or more in a series of cross-country runs to raise awareness of social and environmental issues. After Easter, Reyes is planning his next long-run: the length of the Philippines, pushing a modified stroller containing tent and food, as well as a statue of Pope Francis, to raise awareness of the plight of the poor.

He says faith doesn’t make the long runs any easier.

“While you’re running for 12 hours a lot of thoughts rise in your head, like `I’m hungry, this is stupid, why I am doing this’,” he said. “There will always be moments in a run when I think of God and pray, but I’m not thinking of him all the time.”

Reyes’ testy relationship with the church was on display recently when he led a prayer to bless two low-rise apartment blocks for slum dwellers alongside a fetid river. A large church building backed onto the slum, and no one from it attended the ceremony. He joked the church was unhappy now because the new apartments would block its sunlight.

“Anywhere in the world you will see two kinds of churches, the church that spends time with owners of big corporations, with politicians and the money, and a church that sides with the majority, with the poor,” he said.

The Rev. Francis Lucas, the president of the country’s Catholic Media Network and a former spokesman for the bishops’ conference, said this characterization was unfair.

“This is maybe his personal opinion. He may have has had his own experience that his work was being obstructing by those in power with the church,” he said. “There are many bishops who are doing their jobs who put their lives at stake in helping the poor. “

On the way to blessing the new apartments, Reyes came across a street protest against a bus company whose fleet had been involved in recent fatal accidents, led by the widow of a victim. A frequent customer of the bus company himself, he quickly found himself joining.

“Before I knew it, I was arranging a prayer rally that I had never really planned,” he said.

Overdrive

Honda builds a better hybrid with Accord

By TERRY BOX
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

HONDA/MCT

The 2014 Honda Accord Hybrid is much quicker to 60 mph than a regular four-cylinder Accord and will get 50 miles per gallon in town.

Hybrids generally pack all the sizzle of a potluck church social or a three-hour investment seminar.

Pretty smoking stuff, though I suppose they all serve fairly lofty purposes.

We could lazily cruise down to green Austin, Texas, in the whispering 'brid and get aurally assaulted by Disk Lock and the Fried Electrons.

I'll be the only guy on Sixth Street with gray hair and a flip-top cellphone that my daughter thinks should be in a museum.

Still, would you really want to be stuck in a social, a seminar or a hybrid on a sultry Saturday night?

Me neither—or so I thought.

But here's what I learned about the 2014 Honda Accord Hybrid on a frigid afternoon recently: It is much quicker to 60 than a regular four-cylinder Accord and will get 50 miles per gallon in town.

That's almost like dating an exotic dancer who can prune trees.

Think about it: You can be an utter hoon with your driving—doing doughnuts in icy parking lots and such—and still rack up a socially responsible 40-plus mpg.

As you probably know, Honda hasn't exactly led the charge on the hybrid front.

Its mediocre Insight hybrid sedan, a weak competitor to Toyota's green-king Prius, has sold so poorly that the Japanese automaker is reportedly considering killing it.

But the white Accord Hybrid Touring I had recently takes a much more sophisticated approach to gas-electric propulsion than the Insight.

And more important, it works. The Accord has a 2-liter four-cylinder engine augmented by a 166-horsepower electric-drive motor.

The result is a combined 196 horsepower in a car that only gains about 100 pounds as a hybrid, mainly because of an unusually small battery pack.

It's also a sedan that can draw from three different power sources: In EV, the electric motor alone spins the front wheels. In gas drive, used for acceleration or higher speeds, the four-cylinder engine drives the front wheels. And in hybrid, the gas engine powers a generator that supplements the EV battery.

Consequently, the Accord lacks the clumsy transitions you feel in most hybrids as they cycle from electric motor to gas engine and back.

In fact, most people probably wouldn't even know that the Accord is a hybrid if it weren't for the blue do-gooder badge on the back—plus a $3,600 premium over a comparably equipped Touring sedan, for a total of $35,695.

Mine looked like any new Accord sedan, which is mostly OK these days.

Big wrap-around headlamps flanked a conventional two-bar Accord grille up front. A prominent character line zipped off the back of the front fenders, cutting at a slight upward angle through the door handles.

A second, more adventurous line down near the rocker panel gave the Accord a light touch of muscle.

Moreover, mine rode on 225/50 tires wrapped around 17-inch turbine-style wheels, neither of which really shouted "hybrid."

Like most hybrids, the Honda starts silently, causing us old-schoolers to wonder what in the blankety-blank is wrong with the battery.

Shortly, though, the four-banger would shudder and spring to life.

That was pretty much the end of the hybrid experience. Push hard enough on the brakes at a red light, and you can activate the automatic start-stop system, but even that is not too intrusive.

When I accelerated, I mostly got real engine sounds as the car easily merged with traffic.

Keep your foot on the right pedal, and the Accord Hybrid will reach 60 mph in an impressive 7.2 seconds—a full second faster than a regular Accord four-cylinder, thanks mostly to the torque of the electric motor, according to Car and Driver.

One oddity: With three different sources of power, the Accord lacks a real transmission, relying on a one-speed direct drive.

As a result, it sometimes seemed to drone faintly under hard acceleration.

But most of the time, you're just not aware of the transmission.

Accords, of course, have long been silent four-door rebels. When pushed, most can carve up corners pretty effectively for front-wheel-drive, midsize sedans.

Although the steering felt a bit light, it was quick and linear, responding crisply to inputs from the leather-wrapped wheel.

In corners, the Accord displayed some slight body lean, but its suspension—a multi-link setup in the rear—was actually pretty tight and athletic, making the car feel light on its feet for a hybrid.

Some drivers, in fact, would probably find the car's ride to be kind of stiff, and I admit it could get intense on rough roads.

But it mostly felt just well-controlled to me, providing the kind of ride that might bring a faint smile to a BMW engineer on vacation.

And there's plenty of room in the Accord for his beer-drinking buddies, as well. I found the back seat highly accommodating, with really good head- and legroom.

As you may recall, Accords from a few years back typically got fitted with hard, unappealing interiors.

They've received a couple of strong shots of Audi since then, which was evident in the tan interior in my Accord.

Two big hoods molded into the swoopy black dashboard that shaded the driver's instrument panel and a recessed display screen.

The instrument panel, as a matter of fact, had one major gauge—a large speedometer—and none of those gimmicky high-tech hybrid dials.

Graph-style gauges on either side of the speedometer indicated the power charge, battery strength and fuel levels.

The black dash rolled down onto a tan lower dashboard that matched the seats and door panels.

They contrasted nicely with a flat black console. Though the door panels were mostly plastic, they had soft tops and armrests.

The seats were tan leather, sectioned with perforated centers.

While maybe not luxurious in a pure, high-end sedan sense, the interior fit the techy Accord well.

With every hybrid, you have to wonder whether the price premium is worth the savings in fuel and how long it will take to recover it.

I would give the Accord pretty high marks for its performance, drivability and fuel economy—its city rating is 7 mpg higher than the Toyota Camry Hybrid.

But Car and Driver actually did the value computation for me, using $3.50 per gallon for gas and 15,000 miles of driving annually.

Using those numbers, owners will need to drive their Accord Hybrids 5.7 years to break even on the premium they paid, the magazine said.

I put more weight on two other numbers: 0 to 60 in 7.2 seconds and 50 miles per gallon—lots of miles with smiles.

NUTS & BOLTS

2014 Honda Accord Hybrid Touring:

- Type of vehicle: Front-wheel-drive, five-passenger sedan
- Fuel economy: 50 miles per gallon city, 45 highway
- Weight: 3,575 pounds
- Engine: Two-liter four-cylinder with 141 horsepower and an AC permanent-magnet synchronous electric motor with 166 horsepower, for a combined total of 196 horsepower
- Transmission: One-speed direct drive
- Performance: 0 to 60 mph in 7.2 seconds
- Base price, excluding destination charge: $29,
- Price as tested: $35,695

American Honda Motor Co.; Car and Driver

Seat belt chime warns driver unnecessarily

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I really appreciated your response to the non-seat belt wearer. I wear my seat belt all the time, but a number of months ago the driver's side seat belt light/warning chime in my 2006 Pontiac G6 started going off while the seat belt is buckled. The shop said it would be $400 to repair because they would have to take the seat out to get to the area to repair. The chime comes on immediately after starting the car, then again about five minutes later and always chimes five times. The light illuminates several times while I am driving and the chime does, too.

ANSWER: From the symptoms you describe, the problem could be as simple as the seat belt switch located in the seat belt buckle at your right hip or its harness connector under the seat. Or it could be a more serious issue with the sensing and diagnostic module or instrument panel cluster.

I would suggest having the shop unplug and test the seat belt switch to determine if it's the culprit. I think this can be done without removing the seat. If the switch is bad, have it replaced. If the switch is good and a scan tool confirms the sensing and diagnostic module is telling the instrument panel cluster the seat belt is fastened—yet the light/chime are still indicating the seat belt is unfastened—the problem is in the instrument panel cluster. You'll have to decide if it's worth this level of repair.

Because of the somewhat intermittent nature of the light/chime coming on, my best guess is the seat belt switch.

Q: I have a 2014 Mitsubishi Lancer and was informed by the dealer service department that I need to use synthetic oil. I thought this was usually required for luxury or high-performance cars and an option for the rest of us. Do I really need to use synthetic oil in this car?

A: Without knowing which engine option is in your vehicle, my answer will have to be a bit generic. The maintenance recommendations from Mitsubishi call for API "SN" 0W-20 for their non-turbo engines and API "SN" 5W-30 for their turbocharged engines. Both petroleum-based and synthetic motor oils can meet these specifications, but why not use the best—a premium synthetic motor oil.

Q: I am curious what your opinion is about using only DexCool antifreeze in our two Buick vehicles as recommended by GM. An auto mechanic and auto body repairman with 30 years' experience advised me not to use this product as he found it clogged up the heaters/heating systems in vehicles.

A: DexCool coolant/antifreeze utilizes an organic acid anti-corrosion technology and claims a much longer service life than conventional antifreeze that utilizes phosphate/borate/silicate anti-corrosion technology. Both coolants are ethylene glycol-based for their antifreeze capabilities.

Is one type better than the other? That question has been and continues to be heavily debated. The biggest issue is oxidation of the coolant over time and mileage. As long as the coolant level is properly maintained and the coolant is flushed/replaced within recommended intervals, both work well.

Q: I have a 2000 Buick Park Avenue. The driver's door refuses to open as easily as the others. It feels like there is a vacuum between the weatherstripping and the door frame. Please advise.

A: First, clean and lubricate the door seal/weatherstripping and seal area on the body with an aerosol silicone lubricant. If this does not help, perhaps the door has "sagged" on its hinges over the years and miles. A body shop may be able to realign the door for easier opening.

In the "old days" I used to do this by placing a piece of 2x4 below the hinges between the door and door frame and "push" the door toward close to slightly "readjust" the hinges.

If the hinge pins/bushings are worn, they can be replaced.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car*, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn., 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. Because of the volume of mail, we cannot provide personal replies.*

Life & Style

A monthlong celebration of poetry

April is National Poetry Month, a monthlong, national celebration of poetry established by the Academy of American Poets as a way to increase awareness and appreciation of poetry in the United States.

To mark the occasion, Tinian English teacher Joseph Connolly submitted the following poems for publication:

Nonpartisan political poetry

By JOSEPH B. CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Cyber savvy denizens of the 'net get a lot of their music via mp3 download. The following triad of sonnets were written before, during, and after the 2012 presidential election. They are nonpartisan by design. I call them NP3s.

Reader's note: A few common Japanese terms are used in the beginning of the Tom O'Dachi report from Cleveland. In romaji: mochi, mochi = hello; ohayo gozaimas = good morning; tomodachi = friend.

TOM O'DACHI ELECTION DAY REPORT FROM CLEVELAND

Dateline - 9:00 am, 11/06/2012, Cleveland,Ohio airport
Three jets on the tarmac at the airport in Cleveland
Hai! Musshi musshi. Ohayo gozaimas, Tomodachi
Ohayo gozaimus? How about OHIO Go Rhyme US?

Romney and Ryan jets on the ground still tryin
Biden's jet, Air Force2 is visible behind them
On his home turf in Chicago Obama will fly in
All searching for swing voters still tryin to find em

Pity the beleaguered voters in this swing state
Ohio is round on the end and high in the middle
Very high political visibility on the electoral plate
Listen! an election day ditty played on the fiddle

'Time for you to leave, you should know its time to leave and
Y'all have been way way too long in Ohio and Cleveland'

DEMOCRACY'S MESSY BUSINESS ALL OVER AMERICA

Oh, whoever said democracy was a messy business sure knew
what they were talking about; now that the election is over
the house smells better, the kitty is happy and napping
your team won the game, but now the sad serious talk
of losing the elections, the rejections of your personal choices
There's no going back and you are not the one who rejoices

Oh, did you think I was talking about the last presidential?
No, this is about domestic residential election voting about
who gets to take the garbage out and change the kitty litter box
Rejection of your choice of movies the family will watch tonight
Dejection you felt after missing that home run, that winning pass
of your favorite team because SOMEONE just had to watch five minutes
of American Idol or Pawn Stars or their favorite reality show
Oh, whoever said democracy was a messy business sure was right

SIX BILLION DOLLARS FOR STATUS QUO

Combined - the parties spent six billion dollars for status quo
Republicans still rule the House and Democrats control the Senate
Is this the way 21st century elections are all destined to go?
These elections changed little no matter which way pundits spin it

Didn't we see Super Pac money filling each party's war chest?
Shouldn't we go forward with conservative campaign reform?
Why not let well informed voters go to polls and do the rest?
Is this extravagant waste becoming the new political norm?

So Barack Obama is still in office and Mitt Romney has lost
Still big numbers pound away on my non-partisan head
One just has to ask is this what democracy has come to cost
When all we know for certain is $6,000,000,000 dollars has fled

Beatles sang, "Can't buy me love." Voters sang, 'Can't buy the election."
Shouldn't we take campaign reform in a less costly direction???

An Independent Voter Approves This Message

By JOSEPH B. CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Some hope to change and some changes to hope
Online, radio, TV, mixed messages sent
Up the long ladder and down the short rope
Candidates debate to be the next president

From city to city through each state they motor
Change is their byword—more bucks for education
Stumping for partisan and nonpartisan voter
Once they're in office a different situation

Pundits pontificate on religion, and race
Local caucuses, state primaries come and go
Pollsters, bloggers predict every step of the chase
Campaigns spin sound bites on cable TV talk shows

Each Super Tuesday the news is a great big mess
Now integral to our political election process

Message of Appreciation
We, the family of the late
†Antonia Ngirmeriil
Lovingly known as "Antonia Tetsuo (Koshiro)"
would like to extend our most heartfelt appreciation to our relatives and friends who surrounded us with love, prayers, kindness and support.
Your thoughtful gesture and kind words have consoled our hearts beyond expectation in such difficult times.
Your presence at the nightly rosary and most especially at the mass of Christian burial was very comforting.
We will always remember you in our hearts and prayers.
May God Bless You All!
Thank you, Mesulang & Si Yu'us Ma'ase.
The Family

Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge HIM,
and HE shall direct your paths.
— Proverbs 3:5-6
Joycelyn Rose
San Nicolas Cave Palacios
Of San Antonio, Saipan was called to her New Life
by our Heavenly Father at the age of 67
December 20, 1946 - April 05, 2014
Pre-Deceased:
Spouse: †Congressman Herman Tudela Palacios
Father: †Clifford William Cave
Mother: †Rosario Delgado San Nicolas Cave
Mother-in-law: †Francisca Camacho Tudela Palacios
Father-in-law: †Joaquin Muna Palacios
Grandaugther: †Judy Ann Aldan Palacios
Children & Spouse:
Katrina Marie & Hillary C. Tagabuel
• Hilarie Lashae (Favian), Larry Marc (Destiny Denise, Danielle Coleen, Daesha Maria), Shelmalyne (Kristan Jacob & Kurtis Lance, Darnell Larroh), Leina Marie (Tony Diamante IV)
Troy Murphey & Antonette Aldan
• Dwayne Jonathan, Krystine Jayleen (Aluna, Isabella)
• Christy Joy, Alicia Janine
• Justin Troy
Judd Donahue "Jason" & Nancy Takahashi
• Noah Triston
Betty Ann & John (J.J.) Cabrera
• Alexis Shawnee, Aysha Shania
Douglas McGarette & Terese Ulloa
• Chelsea (Chance Kae'Ani), Sina Ha'ani, Tiara, Ezekiel
Daily Mass is being held at San Antonio Church at 6:00pm
In celebration of her New Life, Memorial Service of our beloved †Joycelyn Rose San Nicolas Cave Palacios will be on Saturday, April 19, 2014 at Grace Christian Assembly, Navy Hill. Viewing from 9:00am to 11:00am, memorial service will be at 11:00am. Christian burial will be on Monday, April 21, 2014 at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery at 4:30pm.
"Jesus is the same Yesterday, Today and Forever"
Your thoughts and prayers are deeply appreciated by her children and families.

'Hunger Games' top winner at MTV Movie Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" earned the prize for best film at Sunday night's MTV Movie Awards, besting even top Oscar winner "12 Years a Slave."

"Hunger Games" stars also took home some of the night's biggest awards. Jennifer Lawrence won best female performance and Josh Hutcherson was voted best male performer.

Zany categories were also in abundance. Zac Efron earned best shirtless performance, while properly accepting his award, well, shirtless.

Plenty of golden popcorn-shaped prizes were handed out at the 22nd annual MTV Movie Awards, but it was the summer movie teasers—and the stars attached to them—that really had Hollywood excited.

Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone and Jamie Foxx, stars of "The Amazing Spider-Man 2," coming May 2, introduced a brief clip of the film showing Spider-Man (Garfield) and the sparkling blue villain Electro (Foxx) battling in New York's Times Square.

Aaron Taylor-Johnson, the star of "Godzilla," opening May 16, presented Orlando Bloom with the award for best fight for his and Evangeline Lilly's tussle with the Orcs in "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug."

Ellen Page, one of the stars of the upcoming "X-Men: Days of Future Past," introduced a clip from the film that sees the X-Men joining forces with their younger selves.

In the tease, some X-Men attempt to battle ruthless metal monsters using their special abilities. It's the first appearance for some of the mutants—Blink, Sunspot, Warpath and Bishop.

The MTV Movie Awards have become the ideal platform for the Hollywood studios to promote their summer movies and this year was no exception.

AP

Sam Claflin, left, poses with the award for best movie of the year and Josh Hutcherson poses with the award for best male performance for "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" in the press room at the MTV Movie Awards on Sunday, April 13, 2014, at Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles.

First-look footage from "The Fault in Our Stars," starring Shailene Woodley and Ansel Elgort, showed the beginnings of the onscreen couple's romance in the heartfelt comedy.

Jared Leto presented Mila Kunis with the award for best villain for "Oz the Great and Powerful." ``You just made my 12-year-old self dream come true," said Kunis, looking very pregnant in a short, loose black dress. "And I just realized I'm the only woman nominated and I won."

Receiving this year's trailblazer award was Channing Tatum. The first male to gain the honor after Stone and Emma Watson, Tatum accepted the award from his "Jupiter Ascending" co-star Kunis and his "22 Jump Street" co-star Jonah Hill. Tatum admitted he thought he was being punked when he found out he would get the award.

On-hand to objectify the best male performance nominees were Leslie Mann, Cameron Diaz, Nicki Minaj and Kate Upton. "Matthew McConaughheyyy," said Minaj. "I have a pair of bongos you can play." But it was Josh Hutcherson who earned the win.

Jordana Brewster introduced the special tribute to Paul Walker, who died in a car crash last November. "I witnessed the generosity of his heart every day I was with him," she said. "He wanted to make a difference in this world. His charm, wit, spirit and his beautiful smile will live on." Clips from a number of his films and a glimpse of footage of the actor accepting the MTV movie award for breakthrough male performance in 2002 were shown.

"I'm always going to be here for you even when you tell me to go," Vin Diesel said in a video clip. "That's who Paul Walker was."

Mark Wahlberg collected the generation award. "I know what this really means," said Wahlberg, adding that this is the award that signifies "You're done."

"Many people have gotten this award before. Jim Carrey, Adam Sandler, Ben Stiller, Jennifer Aniston...and you know what they all have in common? They're all old. This is the too old to come back award," said Wahlberg. "But it was as great run! I'm a lucky guy to have gone from being incarcerated to having a one-hit rap career to having an underwear modeling career to... I'm about to cry in a minute."

Host Conan O'Brien kicked off the ceremony with a challenge to gain 50 celebrity cameos for his opening segment, a shtick with Will Arnett that merged two categories—best fight and best kiss—and a musical number about hating musical numbers in big awards shows.

Walking out to a track by rapper Rick Ross, O'Brien joked that he was almost injured by the show's flashing pyrotechnics. "Fire, explosions and rap music: all things you associate with Conan O'Brien," he deadpanned.

Earlier in the evening, Amanda Seyfried had trouble reading the teleprompter, blaming it on not wearing her contacts. "So far this is going about as well as the Oscars," said her co-presenter Seth MacFarlane—referencing his 2013 Academy Award hosting gig—before the pair presented Hill with his award for best comedic performance for "The Wolf of Wall Street."

Hill's initial thanks went to all of his friends with whom he used to watch the show back home before making it to the ceremony himself.

In the preshow awards, the prize for best cameo performance went to Rihanna for her appearance in the comedy "This is the End." Later, Rihanna took to the stage with Eminem to perform their hit "The Monster." Performing tacks from the soundtrack of "Divergent," Ellie Goulding sang "Beating Heart," while Zedd took the stage for "Find You."

Best kiss went to Emma Roberts, Jennifer Aniston and Will Poulter.

The MTV awards had some stiff competition from other networks on Sunday night, including the latest installment of HBO's popular "Game of Thrones" and the final season premiere of AMC's "Mad Men."

WINNERS' LIST

Winners at the 22nd annual MTV Movie Awards in Los Angeles on Sunday:

- **Movie of the year:** "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire."
- **Best female performance:** Jennifer Lawrence, "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire."
- **Best male performance:** Josh Hutcherson, "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire."
- **Breakthrough performance:** Will Poulter, "We're the Millers."
- **Best kiss:** Emma Roberts, Jennifer Aniston and Will Poulter, "We're the Millers."
- **Best fight:** Orlando Bloom and Evangeline Lilly vs. Orcs in "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug."
- **Best comedic performance:** Jonah Hill, "The Wolf of Waall Street."
- **Best shirtless performance:** Zac Efron, "That Awkward Moment."
- **Best villain:** Mila Kunis, "Oz the Great and Powerful."
- **Best on-screen transformation:** Jared Leto, "Dallas Buyers Club."
- **Best musical moment:** Backstreet Boys, Jay Baruchel, Seth Rogen and Craig Robinson perform in Heaven, "This is the End."
- **Best cameo performance:** Rihanna, "This is the End."
- **Favorite character:** Tris, played by Shailene Woodley in "Divergent."
- **Best scared-as-s--- performance:** Brad Pitt, "World War Z."
- **Best on-screen duo:** Vin Diesel and Paul Walker, "Fast & Furious 6."
- **(hash)WTF moment:** Leonardo DiCaprio, "The Wolf of Wall Street."
- **Best hero:** Henry Cavill, "Man of Steel."
- **Trailblazer award:** Channing Tatum.
- **Generation award:** Mark Wahlberg.

'Chimerica,' 'Book of Mormon' win at Oliviers

LONDON (AP)—Irreverent musical "The Book of Mormon" and hit geopolitical drama "Chimerica" were the big winners Sunday at Britain's Olivier stage awards, on a night when London's small theaters flexed their substantial muscle.

"The Book of Mormon"—which stormed London just as it earlier wowed New York—won four prizes, including best new musical and best actor in a musical, for Gavin Creel.

Choreographer and co-director Casey Nicholaw said the success of the show—written by "South Park" creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone—came down to its blend of "good contemporary satire and good old-fashioned entertainment."

Lucy Kirkwood's "Chimerica," a play about the entwined fates of China and the United States that opens with a search for the protester photographed standing in front of a tank in Tiananmen Square in 1989, won five trophies including best new play and best director, for Lyndsey Turner.

It was one of several winners to start life in state-subsidized off-West End venues. "Chimerica" opened at north London's 300-seat Almeida Theatre before transferring to a bigger commercial playhouse.

The same path was followed by an acclaimed revival of Henrik Ibsen's "Ghosts," which took prizes for best revival, best actress, for Lesley Manville, and best supporting actor, for Jack Lowden.

"Oh, Larry, where have you been all my life?" said a delighted Manville, clutching her statuette—a bust of acting legend Laurence Olivier.

Director Richard Eyre adapted the play, distilling Ibsen's 19th-century script down to an intense, audience-draining 90 minutes.

"Suicide, euthanasia, feminism, syphilis, morality—you name it, it's in the play," Eyre said, proclaiming Ibsen a "genius."

Lowden—a rising star who will soon be seen in the BBC's television adaptation of Tudor saga "Wolf Hall"—said he was thrilled to win for his performance as the syphilitic son of a troubled family in the intense Norwegian family tragedy.

"Any chance you get to play an arrogant, rash ... drunk, take it," Lowden advised his fellow actors.

Sharon D. Clarke was another winner from the subsidized sector, taking the best-actress trophy for "The Amen Corner" at the National Theatre.

The victories are a boost for state-funded arts groups at a time when Britain's Conservative-led government is cutting all forms of public spending in a bid to reduce the country's huge deficit.

Eyre said subsidized and commercial theater "feed each other."

"You can't have one without the other. ... For all the successes, you have to be able to fail, and that is what subsidy gives you."

Busker romance "Once" won the prize for outstanding achievement in music, and its Croatian co-star, Zrinka Cvitesic, was named best actress in a musical.

"I don't know if you guys are aware of this, but you just changed Croatian history," she said.

The awards, Britain's equivalent of Broadway's Tonys, honor achievements in London theater, musicals, dance and opera.

Founded in 1976, the Oliviers have been laying on the glitz in recent years, with glossy ceremonies modeled on the Tonys.

This year's hosts were actors Gemma Arterton and Stephen Mangan, and performers included tenor Joseph Calleja, Broadway legend Bernadette Peters and ABBA's Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus, who reunited onstage to celebrate the 15-year West End run of "Mamma Mia."

Winners in most categories were chosen by a panel of stage professionals and theatergoers. The Audience Award, decided by public vote, went to "Les Miserables."

There were special achievement awards for impresario Michael White—who was behind taboo-breaking shows such as "Oh! Calcutta!" and "The Rocky Horror Show"—and to Nicholas Hytner and Nick Starr, the National Theatre's outgoing management team.

Screen stars Jude Law, Tom Hiddleston and Judi Dench were among the big-name nominees who missed out on acting prizes—Dench to Manville and the men to Rory Kinnear, one of Britain's leading stage actors, awarded for his scheming Iago in "Othello" at the National Theatre.

Kinnear said the fact that in-demand movie actors like Dench, Hiddleston and Law kept returning to the London stage "shows how addictive it is."

"We as actors basically have to do the same job no matter where it is," said Kinnear, who appeared in the James Bond thriller "Skyfall."

"It's using your imagination to fill up people's skin."

With $41.4M, 'Captain America' holds off 'Rio 2'

This image released by Marvel shows Chris Evans in a scene from "Captain America: The Winter Soldier." AP

NEW YORK (AP)—"Captain America" continued to flex its Marvel muscle at the global box office, as "The Winter Soldier" took in $41.4 million domestically and $60.6 million overseas.

The strong second-week performance for the Walt Disney release in North America was enough to narrowly edge 20th Century Fox's "Rio 2" in a springtime battle of sequels. The animated Amazon jungle tale "Rio 2" debuted with $39 million, according to studio estimates Sunday, almost exactly the opening weekend total of the 2011 Oscar-nominated original.

But "Captain America" has grown considerably in stature since its 2011 original, "The First Avenger." With a global cumulative total of nearly $477 million, "The Winter Soldier" has (in two weeks domestically, three weeks internationally) easily surpassed the $370 million total of "The First Avenger."

For a superhero whose costume is draped with the U.S. flag, Captain America (played by Chris Evans) has proven particularly popular abroad. The international appeal of such a traditionally patriot figure was once doubted.

"The traditional rules just don't apply anymore. It's really about that Marvel brand," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak. "'Captain America' can play in Peoria just as well as Hong Kong."

"Rio 2," with a voice cast including Anne Hathaway and Jessie Eisenberg, also played well internationally. In its second week of release overseas, it made $62.5 million.

Two other new releases opened in a distant third and fourth place.

The low-budget supernatural horror film "Oculus" took in $12 million for Relativity Media.

The football drama "Draft Day," starring Kevin Costner and directed by Ivan Reitman, debuted weakly with $9.8 million. Made with the cooperation of the National Football League, the Lionsgate release is the second movie this year, along with the thriller "3 Days to Kill," to attempt to restore the 59-year-old Costner to leading man status.

The overall box office for the year is up more than 7 percent over 2013's record box-office haul. The month of April has been propelled especially by the summer-style release of "The Winter Soldier" and a number of less likely successes.

With $39.5 million domestically, the Wes Anderson caper "The Grand Budapest Hotel" has performed exceptionally in a gradual release by Fox Searchlight. The independently released Christian film "God's Not Dead," from Freestyle Releasing, has made a whopping $40.7 million in four weeks.

Just holding in the top five was Lionsgate's teen sci-fi franchise-starter "Divergent," which added $7.5 million in its fourth week to bring its cumulative total to $124.9 million. Lionsgate announced Friday that the third installment in the series (a sequel for 2015 is already in the works) will be split into two releases. The final book in Veronica Roth's young-adult trilogy, "Allegiant," will be made into two installments, one to open in March 2016, the other in March 2017.

1. **"Captain America: The Winter Soldier,"** $41.4 million ($60.6 million international).
2. **"Rio 2,"** $39 million ($62.3 million international).
3. **"Oculus,"** $12 million ($1.3 million international).
4. **"Draft Day,"** $9.8 million.
5. **"Divergent,"** $7.5 million ($23.2 million international).
6. **"Noah,"** $7.5 million ($36.2 million international).
7. **"God's Not Dead,"** $5.5 million.
8. **"The Grand Budapest Hotel,"** $4.1 million ($7.2 million international).
9. **"Muppets Most Wanted,"** $2.2 million ($2.2 million international).
10. **"Mr. Peabody and Sherman,"** $1.8 million ($3.8 million international).

Marilyn Monroe earrings auctioned for $185,000

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A pair of rhinestone earrings Marilyn Monroe wore to a 1955 Hollywood film premiere have sold at auction for $185,000.

Julien's Auctions said in a statement Sunday that the actress wore the jewelry when she attended the opening of "The Rose Tattoo."

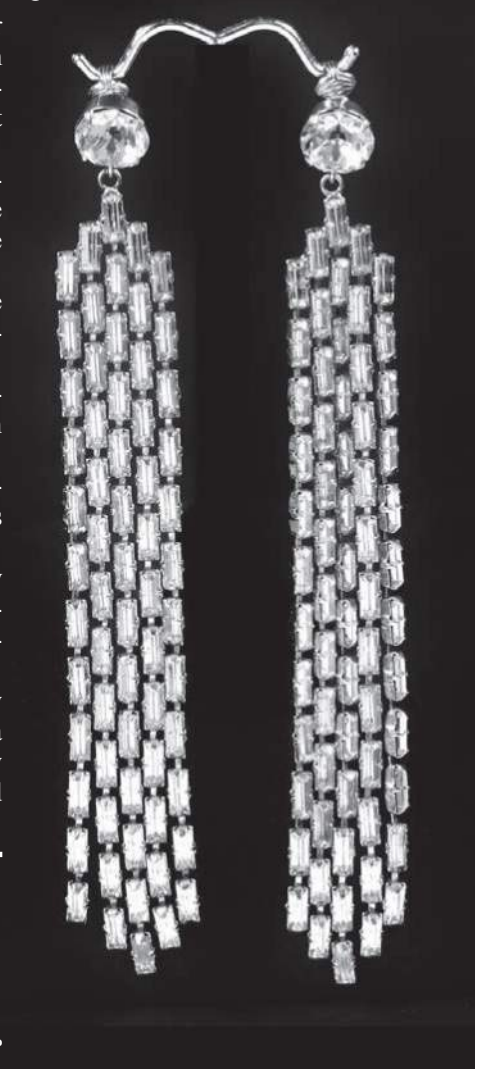
Monroe did not appear in the film based on a Tennessee Williams play.

The price included a 20 percent commission for the auction house.

The buyer was a foreign collector. The auction house does not release the names of buyers.

The sale was part of a two-day auction of Hollywood memorabilia Friday and Saturday at Julien's Beverly Hills gallery.

A lighter used by Humphrey Bogart sold for $19,200, and a 1986 Pontiac Firebird owned by David Hasselhoff was purchased for $152,600.



This image provided courtesy of Julien's Auctions shows a pair of rhinestone earrings worn by Marilyn Monroe to a 1955 Hollywood film premiere, "The Rose Tattoo." AP

Jennifer Lopez, Laverne Cox win GLAAD Media Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jennifer Lopez has added a couple of more trophies to her block.

The pop star and "American Idol" judge was honored Saturday night at the 25th annual GLAAD Media Awards with the Vanguard Award, which lauds efforts to increase visibility and understanding of the gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender community. In addition to being an outspoken advocate for gay rights, Lopez serves as executive producer of the ABC Family series "The Fosters," which centers on a lesbian couple raising their children. "The Fosters" also won the award for outstanding drama series.

Other winners at the Beverly Hilton Hotel ceremony included NBC's "Days of Our Lives" for daily drama, Fuse's "Big Freedia: Queen of Bounce" for reality program, Tegan and Sara for music artist and "Young Avengers" for comic book. "Bridegroom" and "Call Me Kuchu" tied for the outstanding documentary trophy.

"Orange is the New Black" star Laverne Cox was presented with the Stephen F. Kolzak Award, which is given to a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender member of the entertainment community. Previous recipients include Wanda Sykes, Rufus Wainwright, Melissa Etheridge, Ellen DeGeneres and Ian McKellen.

Norman Lear, the veteran producer of such sitcoms as "All in the Family" and "Maude," was honored with the Pioneer Award.

The awards salute fair, accurate and inclusive representation in media of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community and the issues that affect their lives. Other winners will be presented at a New York ceremony on May 3.

Signs of an abuser apply to women as well as men

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I read your Jan. 8 column about the warning signs of an abuser. Would you use your influence to say that men are also victims of abuse?

My son was in a three-year relationship with a woman who scored 15 out of 15 on your list. We knew it was a toxic relationship, but he couldn't see that.

The night he came to us for help, battered and bloody, I finally took a stand. It took six months to get her out of his life. My son was ashamed to be a battered man, and she had told him that men who call 911 go to jail. It kept him from calling.

Please, Abby, help to change that. If you use this, please keep me anonymous. He thinks I'm an "interfering mom," but at least he's not being abused anymore. I love him and miss him terribly.

INTERFERING MOM

DEAR MOM: I'm glad you wrote so I can emphasize that abusers can be members of both sexes, from every economic level and sexual orientation. I received a TON of mail about this:

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Thank you for including both "he and she" in the warning signs of abusers. My second marriage was a sad and unhealthy rebound affair. My ex was attractive, talented and host to multiple addictions -- risky sexual encounters with men and women, cocaine, alcohol and marijuana. I became aware of her blackouts and outrageous behavior just before our wedding.

I finally left after two years to avoid committing a crime in response to her physical abuse, chronic infidelities, psychological cruelty and pathological intoxication. Please urge men to report their abusers, file charges and flee bad situations! I had no way of knowing what lay ahead for me back then.

Do you have advice for other men contemplating marriage to a pretty party girl? Today I'm happily married to a deeply beautiful and noble woman, and grateful to have found her.

SET FREE IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR SET FREE: I think you've stated it well. All I can add is that men who suffer physical abuse at the hands of a partner should go to an emergency room for treatment so their injuries can be documented, then file a formal complaint and end the relationship.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Gay people need to read those warning signs because abusers abound in the gay community, too. I have gay and lesbian friends who were involved with abusers. Gay and lesbian centers offer counseling for this. LGBT people face the same problems as straights do.

MIKE IN DAYTONA

DEAR ABBY: I spent four years in a relationship before I realized I was being abused. My lady friend pushed for a lifelong commitment within a month of our meeting, was jealous and controlling, shut my friends out, cursed and hit me on more than one occasion and, when I protested, she'd say she was "just trying to get my attention," or "I only got what I deserved." When I finally told her I was leaving, she threatened to kill me.

I have since learned that lots of men suffer psychological damage and physical danger from an abusive spouse or partner. Please inform your male readers they can get help from a skilled therapist or counselor by calling the Domestic Abuse Helpline for Men and Women at 888-7HELPLINE (888-743-5754) in the U.S. and Canada. The website is DAHMW.org.

PROFESSIONAL MAN IN ATLANTA

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

LOOK AT YOU! HOW COULD ANYONE GET SO DIRTY AT SCHOOL?
I GOT THIS DIRTY JUST TRYING TO WALK IN THE FRONT DOOR! OL' CATAPULT BUTT WAS LYING IN WAIT FOR ME.
WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER. YOU'D BETTER GET IN THE TUB NOW ANYWAY.
A BATH?!
BUT IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE AFTERNOON!
YES, BUT I HAVE TO GET IN THE SHOWER BEFORE YOUR DAD GETS HOME, SO HE CAN TAKE ONE
WHY ALL THE BATHS? IS THERE SOME EPIDEMIC GOING AROUND?
I TOLD YOU THIS MORNING WE'RE GOING OUT TONIGHT. ROSALYN WILL BE HERE AT 6:00.
AUGH HHH!

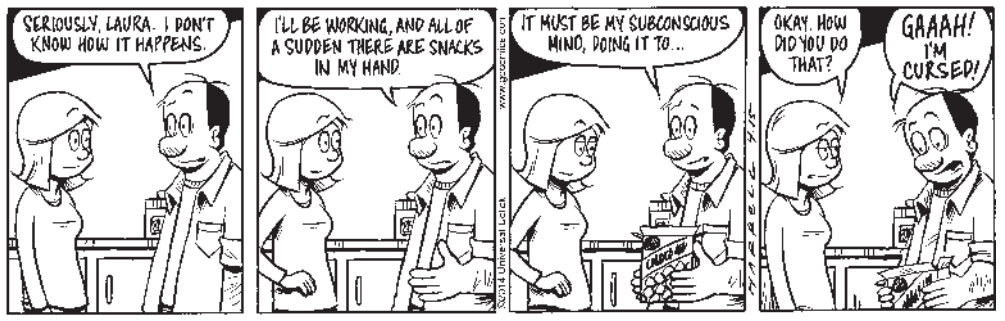
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I'M BACK, GARFIELD
YOU HAVEN'T MOVED, HAVE YOU?
EXACTLY WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN I'M GONE?
OH, GEE! YOU JUST MISSED THE PONY RIDE!
JIM DAVIS 4-15

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SERIOUSLY, LAURA. I DON'T KNOW HOW IT HAPPENS.
I'LL BE WORKING, AND ALL OF A SUDDEN THERE ARE SNACKS IN MY HAND.
IT MUST BE MY SUBCONSCIOUS MIND, DOING IT TO...
OKAY. HOW DID YOU DO THAT?
GAAAH! I'M CURSED!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Rosary component
5 Research site
8 Bankrolls
12 Sheriff Taylor's kid
13 Greek peak
14 Slightly
15 "Don't close the — after the horse is gone"
17 Moth variety
18 Charged particle
19 Sway
21 Specter
24 Cribbage scorers
25 Passion
26 Sales
30 Anger
31 Football features
32 Young pooch
33 Gave a haircut to
35 Musical ending
36 The Tentmaker
37 Makes weary
38 Sacred beetle
41 In favor of
42 Desert-like
43 Cookout
48 Fill with cargo
49 Latin 101 word
50 Back talk
51 Ski-lift device
52 Droop
53 Quarrel

DOWN
1 Go up and down
2 Ecol. watchdog org.
3 Melody
4 Actress Richards of "Wild Things"
5 Emerald City visitor
6 Fuss
7 Traded
8 1990s Polish president
9 Be next to
10 Eat in style
11 Celebrity
16 URL component
20 Early birds?
21 Smooth-talking
22 Circle dance
23 Exceeding
24 Harness horse
26 Whom Pilate pardoned
27 Nano, for one
28 Undressed
29 Health centers
31 Golf legend Tony
34 Edge
35 Gentle touch
37 Task
38 Sodium chloride
39 Grouch
40 Verdi opera
41 Kermit, e.g.
44 "I — Camera"
45 Upper limit
46 Dos Passos trilogy
47 Superlative suffix

Solution time: 21 mins.

M	A	N		S	C	O	O	P		P	A	T
A	G	O		C	H	I	D	E		E	T	A
P	E	R	I	H	E	L	I	A		R	O	C
			T	O	E		S	C	R	I	P	T
C	A	P	T	O	R		T	H	I	S		
A	X	E		L	U	V		Y	A	H	O	O
F	I	R	M		P	I	C		L	I	R	A
C	L	I	A	S		A	L	A		N	E	T
		P	I	I	A		A	M	I	G	O	S
M	A	H	L	E	R		R	U	N			
A	B	F		P	F	R	I	S	C	O	P	E
C	U	R		O	N	I	C	E		S	A	L
S	T	Y		N	A	M	E	S		U	Z	I

Yesterday's answer 4-15

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				16				■	17			
■	■	■	18			■	19	20				
21	22	23			■	24				■	■	■
25				■	26					27	28	29
30			■	31					■	32		
33			34					■	35			
■	■	■	36				■	37				
38	39	40				■	41			■	■	■
42				■	43	44				45	46	47
48				■	49			■	50			
51				■	52				53			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Emma Watson, 24; Seth Rogen, 32; Emma Thompson, 55; Roy Clark, 81

Happy Birthday: Keep life simple, stay focused and leave no room for error. Strategy and calculated action will play a role in whether or not you achieve the goals you set. Excess and negative aggression will bring you down and must be controlled in order to strive for and execute what you have to offer and wish to accomplish without regret or restraint. Your numbers are 5, 13, 20, 23, 35, 37, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Business and personal partnerships will experience difficulties and must be handled with care. Overreacting or making assumptions will lead to regrets. A deal, contract or settlement is best dealt with honestly and with integrity and openness. Don't mix business with pleasure. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You can talk matters over and make suggestions, but don't expect everyone to see things your way. As long as you do your best and offer positive, progressive ideas, you will have no regrets. An important personal relationship will bring you good fortune. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Look for more ways to put your skills, talents and the things you enjoy doing most into effect when it comes to moneymaking opportunities. Offering a diverse service will grab attention. Keep personal changes to a minimum. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Put more time and effort into personal plans and self-improvement. Avoid dealing with people who are demanding. The changes others make must not be allowed to disrupt your course of action. Make a point to learn something unique or unusual. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Travel, conferences, trade shows or any form of event or activity that will broaden your horizons and give you incentive to plunge into something extraordinary will pay off. Take a challenge and run with it and you will surpass your goal. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Easy does it. You may be in the mood to get things done, but leaving a little wiggle room to make last-minute adjustments will be necessary. Precision, dedication and leaving nothing to chance will be your ticket to success. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Partnerships will play a major role in your life. Disagreements are apparent and sudden changes are likely to take place. Don't make judgment calls unless you have all the information required to assess the situation. Mistakes are likely and can be costly. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Make positive changes at home. Love is on the rise and a little romance can improve your personal life substantially. An outing, day trip or expressing your feelings and hopes for the future will help to initiate new beginnings. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Socialize, network and mingle. The more you share with progressive individuals, the more you will gain. Forming partnerships and sharing responsibilities and ideas for future projects will lead to a good position. Budget wisely if you alter your living quarters. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't expect anything to go as planned. Prepare to act quickly. Mistakes will be easy to make and difficult to correct. Opposition can come from those you least expect. Bide your time and document every detail. Keep your thoughts a secret. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Look over personal papers and go through your options. Don't rely on the advice offered. Ulterior motives are apparent and poor direction likely. Take control, be confident and most of all, believe and trust in yourself. Financial gains are within reach. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Enjoy the company of friends or individuals who like the same pastimes you do. An opportunity will be a direct result of sharing your thoughts, ideas and intentions. Let your vision lead the way. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intuitive and inventive. You are loyal and excessive.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		7		2	9	3	8	
								6
5				7	6			4
						1		2
7		3		6		9		5
9		6						
2			6	9				8
3								
	4	9	3	1		5		

Difficulty Level ★★ 4/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	8	6	3	5	1	2	7	4
5	1	4	9	2	7	6	3	8
3	2	7	8	6	4	9	5	1
1	4	5	7	9	6	3	8	2
6	3	2	1	8	5	4	9	7
7	9	8	4	3	2	5	1	6
4	6	9	5	7	8	1	2	3
2	7	3	6	1	9	8	4	5
8	5	1	2	4	3	7	6	9

Difficulty Level ★ 4/14

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SIBLINGS **Solution: 7 letters**

Y	K	L	A	U	G	H	T	E	E	M	A	I	L	G
R	A	I	K	I	E	C	H	O	R	E	S	T	U	N
E	E	L	F	L	G	R	O	W	U	P	E	A	N	I
T	A	T	P	A	R	T	Y	N	T	A	R	O	C	P
T	S	F	A	I	V	L	L	A	C	D	P	L	H	L
E	U	E	F	C	H	O	S	H	I	A	L	D	R	E
L	H	I	M	R	I	S	R	A	P	T	A	E	O	H
R	Y	B	A	B	I	N	N	R	Ⓓ	E	N	R	S	N
O	S	R	R	I	R	E	U	O	E	Ⓝ	E	S	E	O
T	R	O	E	R	E	A	N	M	I	H	Ⓞ	I	I	I
S	E	T	H	T	F	P	C	D	M	T	T	Ⓑ	R	N
E	T	H	T	H	L	O	V	E	S	O	A	O	O	U
C	S	E	A	N	E	R	D	L	I	H	C	L	M	E
N	I	R	F	A	C	E	C	S	I	N	I	M	E	R
A	S	S	I	S	T	S	T	N	E	R	A	P	M	R

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Ancestor, Assist, Baby, Birth, Bond, Brothers, Call, Children, Chores, Communicate, Date, Dinner, Email, Embrace, Face, Father, Favor, Friendship, Gifts, Grow Up, Guardian, Helpful, Helping, Hero, Laugh, Letter, Love, Lunch, Meet, Memories, Mother, Older, Parents, Party, Picture, Plan, Play, Reflect, Relationship, Reminisce, Reunion, Sib, Sisters, Talk, Teach

Yesterday's Answer: Viruses

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 27, 31, 35, 36, 37 or 38** call 1-800-642-6480. Order online at wonderword.universaluclick.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

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All applicants must be able to consistently demonstrate good customer service. Please mail resume with job references to PMB 173 Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950 or email info@ecsaipan.com Emerald City, LLC dba East/West Restaurant/Siberia Restaurant/Jazz Café & Bar

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(13) Beautician

(4) Massage Therapist

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Please mail resume to PMB 373 Box 10003, Saipan, MP 96950 or email newsic426@gmail.com. New Star International Corporation dba Asahi Beauty Salon and Asahi Massage Therapy.

YANO ENTERPRISES, INC.
dba: **Kinpachi Restaurant**

Job Vacancy Announcement

Assistant Restaurant Manager (1)
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Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.

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Please no phone calls.

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Atleast 2 to 4 years of work experience in hospitality industry.
(1) **Waitress**

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Technician Supervisor (1)
Administrative Assistant (1)

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www.g4s.mp

EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY: G4S is an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Employer and observes all federal employment opportunity regulations, practices and policies. Federal Law requires presentation of proof of identity and eligibility to work in the United States. We comply with this law on a nondiscriminatory basis. Must be 18 years or older and must be able to speak, read and write English. Open to all qualified U.S. Workers without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex citizenship and is in compliance with Title II of the Genetics Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA). This job is open to all U.S. Veterans, Persons with Disabilities and Women In Non-traditional occupations that are qualified, willing, able and available to perform the job.

Job Vacancy Announcement

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(01) NURSE SUPERVISOR

- Must pass NCLEX-RN and current CNMI RN License
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- At least four years hemodialysis experience and plus three years as a charge nurse in dialysis
- Certified Nephrology Nurse (CNN)-Preferred
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- English Language Skills-Proficient in verbal, written and comprehension
- Must hold a Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Must be flexible with time schedule.

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick up an application at St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc., at Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit application will be on 04/25/2014 at 4:00 pm. For more information, please call Judy Arriola at (670) 234-2903 ext. 124.

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Job Vacancy Announcement

General Maintenance (2):
Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and flexible in work hours. Duties may involve skills in electrical, plumbing, carpentry, masonry, painting, landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. Can typically perform variety of task such as sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking and installing , repairing buildings, floors or stairs.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and good moral character, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.

Applicants of position listed above are required to have a minimum of 3-5 years of experience.
Applications can be picked-up at Kinpachi Restaurant, MISA Building 4, Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

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Hilltop Codominium
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view.
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Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft
$500/month
Wi-Fi & nighttime security excluded

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- **Back-up Generator**
- **Air-conditioning in all rooms**
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WHATZIT Solution: Cheese on toast

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

Find today's solution in classified section

Pacers hold on to top spot in East by beating OKC

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The Pacers were back to being themselves Sunday.

They made shots. They defended hard for 48 minutes. Lance Stephenson regained his swagger and, yes, the reeling Pacers even looked like a playoff-ready team.

David West made three free throws in the final 15 seconds and Stephenson produced his league-leading fifth triple-double to give Indiana a 102-97 win over Oklahoma City 102-97, putting the Pacers on the cusp of clinching the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference.

"We're going to treat it (the season finale) like a playoff game. We have to get that No. 1 spot," Stephenson said. "That's what we wanted from the beginning of the season so we have to take it, not get it, we have to take it."

All they need is a win Wednesday night at Orlando or one more Miami loss. The Heat visit Washington on Monday and host Philadelphia on Wednesday.

It's been a wild second-half ride for Indiana (55-26), which held the top spot in the East from opening night in October until the last week of March. When the Pacers beat the Heat on March 26, they had a three-game lead and a seemingly firm grasp on home-court advantage.

As the losses mounted, though, Miami charged back and finally took the top spot on March 31. But rather than pulling away, the two-time defending champs gave the lead right back.

Miami retook a one-half game by beating the Pacers at home Friday, then fell into a tie with Indiana after losing Saturday night in Atlanta.

The Pacers went into Sunday's game with six losses in eight games and the knowledge that all they had to do was win their last two—because they have a better conference record than the Heat.

So just like that, Indiana flipped the switch and got back to looking the a championship contender.

Six players reached double figures including West, who had 21, and Stephenson, who had 17 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds. He broke Detlef Schrempf's franchise record for most triple doubles in a season (four in 1992-93).

"He's a big part of our personality, a big part of our edge, a fan favorite with good reason and he's one of the head coach's favorites," Pacers coach Frank Vogel said after getting a low-five from Stephenson after a late 3-pointer.

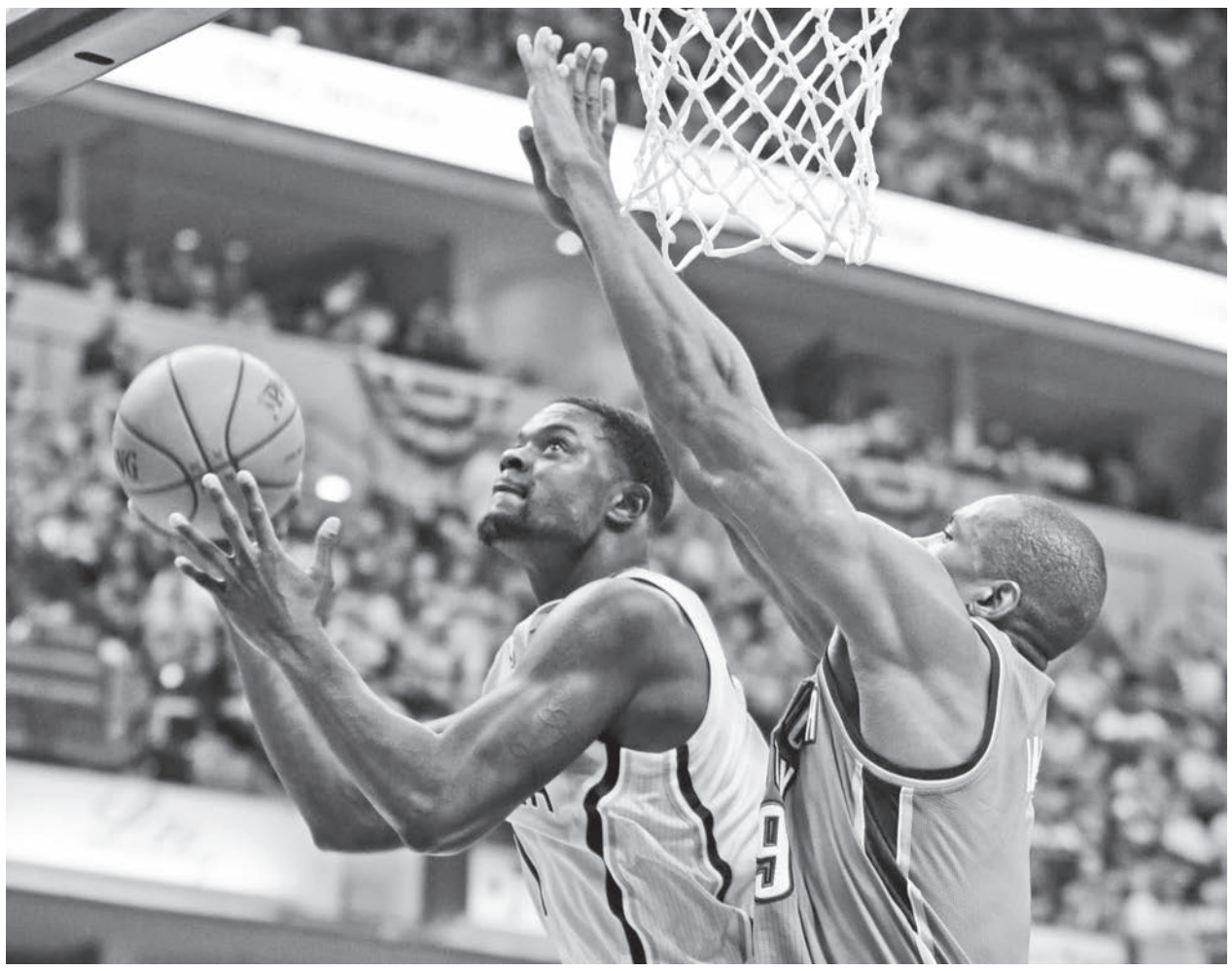
Paul George finished with 20 points and 12 rebounds and C.J. Watson scored a season high 20 points. The Pacers didn't even need much from Roy Hibbert, who had six rebounds, no points and was 0 for 9 from the field.

The Thunder (58-22) shot 42.9 percent from the field, were 7 of 28 on 3-pointers and were outrebounded 46-32.

NBA scoring leader Kevin Durant had 38 points and Russell Westbrook had 21 as they rallied Oklahoma City from a 10-point deficit over the final seven minutes.

The Thunder, who were trying to lock up the No. 2 seed in the West, have no doubt Indiana can play with the best in the NBA.

"What's surprising to me is the people who are down on them," Oklahoma City coach Scott Brooks said. "In an 82-game season, you're going to have some tough times. Unfortunately for them, they're having it late in the season. But all it takes is a game or two to get back on."



AP

Indiana Pacers guard Lance Stephenson, left, shoots under Oklahoma City Thunder forward Serge Ibaka in the second half of an NBA basketball game in Indianapolis, Sunday, April 13, 2014.

What changed for the Pacers, aside from returning to their home court?

They were gritty and selfless, the starters who sat out Wednesday at Milwaukee looked well-rested and the bench that produced a big win over the Bucks looked more confident. While there were still signs of lingering problems, such as 21 turnovers.

Indiana stayed in control and closed it out late.

After George's 12-foot runner gave the Pacers an 87-77 lead with 6:59 to go, the Thunder charged back, tying the score at 89 when Westbrook hit a 3 with 2:46 to go.

"We put ourselves in good position, we just couldn't finish," Durant said.

The Pacers wouldn't allow it.

George broke the tie with a 3 and 2:09 to play, West followed that with two straight mid-range jumpers and Stephenson knocked down a 3 with 34.2 seconds left to give make it 97-91.

"We're just trying to put together good basketball at this point and hopefully carry it into the playoffs," West said.

Source: Dumars out as Detroit's team president

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)—Joe Dumars tried to push the Detroit Pistons back toward the playoffs with a couple of big moves last offseason.

That didn't work, and now the Pistons will be hiring someone else to replace him.

Detroit has decided not to renew Dumars' contract as president of basketball operations, a person familiar with the situation said Sunday. The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the team has not made any announcement on Dumars' future, says Dumars will remain with the Pistons as an adviser.

Dumars was named the 2003 executive of the year, and the Pistons won the title the following season, adding the 2004 crown to the two they won when Dumars was a player.

But Detroit hasn't made the playoffs since 2009, and the retooled Pistons flopped badly this season.

Detroit has one of the game's top young big men in Andre Drummond, but he's one of the franchise's few bright spots at the moment.

Owner Tom Gores must now hire a new general manager, and in the meantime, ownership executives Phil Norment and Bob Wentworth are expected to supervise preparations for the draft and free agency.

Detroit signed Josh Smith and traded for Brandon Jennings last offseason in what seemed like a return to relevance, but the new-look roster lacked cohesion at times. Coach Maurice Cheeks was fired in February, and the Pistons are 29-52 with one game remaining.

"I think overall we have a quality team as is," forward Kyle Singler said. "I don't know necessarily the formula to win, but we just weren't able to get into a groove earlier on in the year to gain confidence and know that we're a playoff team."

Dumars began running the Pistons in 2000, and he made one shrewd move after another at first, acquiring Ben Wallace for Grant Hill in a sign-and-trade and sending Jerry Stackhouse to Washington for Richard Hamilton.

He brought Rasheed Wallace to Detroit in another trade and signed Chauncey Billups as a free agent. Even a draft day blunder in 2003—picking Darko Milicic over Carmelo Anthony, Chris Bosh and Dwyane Wade with the No. 2 pick—seemed like an aberration when the Pistons beat the Los Angeles Lakers in the finals the following year.

Raptors 116, Pistons 107

In Auburn Hills, Mich., DeMar DeRozan scored 14 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter, and Toronto tied a franchise record for victories with a win over Detroit.

The Raptors (47-33) had already clinched the Atlantic Division, and the victory over Detroit was their 10th in 14 games. Toronto has reached the 47-win mark for the third time. The Raptors went 47-35 in 2001 and 2007.

Kyle Lowry scored 28 points for Toronto before fouling out with 5:51 remaining.

Andre Drummond had 14 points and 17 rebounds for the Pistons in the final home game of their dismal season. Detroit's Josh Smith missed a fourth straight game with tendinitis in his left knee.

Grizzlies 102, Lakers 90

In Los Angeles, Mike Conley scored 24 points and Memphis pulled away in the third quarter to beat Los Angeles, moving the Grizzlies a game ahead of idle Phoenix in the race for the final Western Conference playoff berth.

Marc Gasol added 18 points and 15 rebounds and Mike Miller had 13 points for the Grizzlies, who head to Phoenix for a showdown with the Suns on Monday night. Gasol hugged his brother Pau after the game; Pau has been out for the Lakers with vertigo.

Jodie Meeks led the Lakers with 20 points in their last home game of a miserable season that has included a franchise-worst 55 losses with two games remaining.

They lost their seventh in a row overall and fifth straight at Staples Center. Wesley Johnson added 15 points and 15 rebounds, and Jordan Hill added a double-double of 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Trail Blazers 119, Warriors 117, OT

In Portland, Ore., LaMarcus Aldridge scored 26 points, including the go-ahead jumper in overtime, and Portland defeated the Warriors despite a season-high 47 points from Golden State's Stephen Curry.

Aldridge's jumper with 39.9 seconds to go gave the Blazers a 118-117 lead. Damian Lillard added a free throw for Portland before Andre Iguodala missed a 3-pointer with 2.9 seconds left and Wesley Matthews grabbed the rebound for the Blazers.

Matthews added 24 points for Portland, which has won four straight and eight of its past nine games.

Both teams are jockeying for final position in the Western Conference. Portland is in fifth place behind Houston and Golden State sits behind the Blazers in sixth.

With the victory, Portland (53-28) was assured of at least the fifth seed in the playoffs. The Blazers close out the season Wednesday against the Clippers.

The Warriors (49-31) missed out on reaching 50 wins for the first time since 1993-94, but they have two games to go in the regular season.

Kings 106, Timberwolves 103

In Sacramento, Calif., Ray McCallum hit back-to-back 3-pointers in a pivotal stretch midway through the fourth quarter, DeMarcus Cousins had 35 points and 15 rebounds, and Sacramento beat Minnesota.

The Kings trailed by 11 in the third quarter and were down 82-81 before going on an 11-2 run to go in front for good. Cousins, who had his eighth straight double-double, started the surge with a thunderous dunk and McCallum followed with his 3s, one from the left corner and the other from the right.

Cousins was hit with a technical foul with less than 2 minutes remaining, his 16th of the season. By NBA rules, he must sit out Sacramento's final regular season game.

Kevin Love had 43 points and 11 rebounds for Minnesota after sitting out Friday's 112-110 win over Houston because of a hyperextended right elbow.

Nets 97, Magic 88

In New York, Mirza Teletovic scored a team-high 20 points and Joe Johnson and Mason Plumlee each added 17 and Brooklyn beat Orlando.

Deron Williams had 16 points, five assists and four steals for the Nets, who have a two-game lead for the fifth spot in the Eastern Conference playoff race over the idle Washington Wizards.

Tobias Harris scored 18 points for the Magic, who have lost their past two games.

Trailing 59-55 with 6:59 remaining in the third quarter, Brooklyn went on a 15-0 run, highlighted by five points from Teletovic, to take a 70-59 lead with 3:23 left in the quarter before Ronnie Price then hit a 3-pointer to end the run.

Knicks 100, Bulls 89

In New York, Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 20 points and New York, a night after being eliminated from playoff contention, beat Chicago.

No longer with any hopes of their own, the Knicks snapped the Bulls' seven-game winning streak and dropped them back into a tie with Toronto for the No. 3 seed in the Eastern Conference with two to play.

Carmelo Anthony and J.R. Smith each had 17 points for the Knicks, who were eliminated Saturday when Atlanta beat Miami, ending New York's run of three straight postseason berths.

Nova, Yankees beat Red Sox 3-2 with replay help

NEW YORK (AP)— Carlos Beltran hit a two-run homer, Ivan Nova rebounded from a rough outing and the New York Yankees beat Boston 3-2 Sunday night with the aid of another disputed replay ruling that led to the ejection of Red Sox manager John Farrell.

Beltran had three hits and was pressed into his first career appearance at first base for the banged-up Yankees. Ichiro Suzuki robbed David Ortiz of extra bases with a spectacular catch in the eighth inning to help New York take three of four in the first series of the season between the longtime rivals.

Mike Napoli homered and Felix Doubront (1-2) went 6 2-3 innings for the Red Sox, who scratched star second baseman Dustin Pedroia before the game due to a sore left wrist.

New York, playing without Derek Jeter for the second consecutive game, scored its third run with the benefit of instant replay in the fourth.

With runners at the corners and one out, the Red Sox thought they turned an inning-ending double play on Francisco Cervelli's grounder. First base umpire Bob Davidson called Cervelli out on a bang-bang play, and Cervelli grabbed his right hamstring as he tumbled to the ground.

Yankees manager Joe Girardi challenged the call, which was overturned after a 3-minute replay review. That gave New York another run and a 3-1 lead.

Farrell, surely still bothered by a replay review that curiously went against Boston the day before, pointed to his eyes as he argued with two umpires. He was quickly ejected by Davidson.

AP

Baseball fans watch as New York Yankees right fielder Ichiro Suzuki (31) catches an eighth-inning flyout by Boston Red Sox designated hitter David Ortiz, robbing Ortiz of a game-tying home run, in the MLB American League baseball game at Yankee Stadium in New York, Sunday, April 13, 2014.

Athletics 3, Mariners 0

In Seattle, Yoenis Cespedes hit a two-run homer that broke a scoreless tie in the eighth inning, lifting Oakland over Seattle.

Cespedes pulled a 2-2 slider from Charlie Furbush (0-1) into the left field bullpen. Cespedes' second homer of the season came after Jed Lowrie drew a leadoff walk.

Josh Donaldson added a solo home run in the ninth, his third, off Lucas Luetge.

A's starter Scott Kazmir pitched two-hit ball for six innings, striking out nine without a walk.

Dan Otero (2-0) retired two batters in the seventh. Luke Gregerson worked the eighth and Sean Doolittle allowed one hit in the ninth for his first save.

Chris Young made his first start since Sept. 9, 2012, while with the New York Mets. Young pitched six shutout innings, giving up four hits. He walked three and struck out two.

Rangers 1, Astros 0

In Arlington, Texas, Martin Perez threw eight scoreless innings, Donnie Murphy had a sacrifice fly and the Rangers got a series-clinching victory over the Astros.

Perez (2-0) scattered five hits and walked three, but the left-hander benefited from four double-play grounders. He struck out two.

Murphy's deep flyball to the left-center gap in the sixth sent home Josh Wilson for the lone run of the game against Brett Oberholtzer (0-3).

Alexi Ogando worked a perfect ninth to convert his first save chance.

Blue jays 11, Orioles 3

In Baltimore, Mark Buehrle allowed one run over seven innings to win his third straight start, and the Blue Jays hit three home runs and had a season-high 17 hits in an victory over the Orioles.

Jose Bautista hit a three-run drive and Colby Rasmus and Brett Lawrie had solo shots to help Toronto win the decisive matchup of the three-game series.

Rasmus, Edwin Encarnacion and Adam Lind each collected three hits for the Blue Jays, who enjoyed their highest scoring game of the year at the expense of Ubaldo Jimenez (0-3) and three Baltimore relievers.

Buehrle (3-0) gave up five hits, walked none and struck out two.

Chris Davis hit his first homer of the season for Baltimore.

Twins 4, Royals 3

In Minneapolis, pitcher Wade Davis made a wild flip home on a comeback-er in the eighth inning and the Twins rallied past the City Royals for a three-game sweep.

A madcap sequence put the Twins ahead and a crazy play ended it, too.

With two outs and none on in the ninth, Mike Moustakas popped a ball straight up. As he stood to watch it in the batter's box, catcher Kurt Suzuki tripped over him, resulting in an interference call for the final out.

After the Royals scored three times in the eighth for a 3-2 lead, reliever Aaron Crow (0-1) walked two Minnesota batters to start the bottom half.

Davis struck out Joe Mauer, but Trevor Plouffe walked to load the bases. Chris Herrmann then hit a tapper back to the mound and Davis' toss sailed past catcher Salvador Perez. Pedro Florimon scored the tying run and Brian Dozier slid home under Perez's return throw to Davis covering the plate.

Casey Fien (1-0) got one out and Glen Perkins posted his third save.

White Sox 4, Indians 3

In Chicago, Alexei Ramirez hit a two-run homer off John Axford in the ninth inning, rallying the White Sox over the Indians.

The Indians scored twice in the top of the ninth, getting the go-ahead run on a wild pitch by closer Matt Lindstrom (1-1).

Axford (0-1) came in seeking his fifth save in as many chances. He issued a leadoff walk to Jordan Danks, who stole second.

One out later, Ramirez homered over the left field fence.

Angels 14, Mets 2

In Anaheim, Calif., Mike Trout, Albert Pujols and Raul Ibanez hit consecutive home runs off Bartolo Colon in the first inning, setting the tone for the Angels' rout of the Mets in the decisive game of their interleague series.

Hank Conger also went deep against Colon, who won the AL CY Young Award in 2005 with the Angels. Colon (1-2) gave up nine runs and 11 hits in five innings, allowing at least one hit to every batter in the Angels' starting lineup.

Brewers 4, Pirates 1

In Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Brewers won their ninth in a row, with Kyle Lohse coming within one out of a complete game in a win over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

At 10-2, the Brewers are off to their best start since going 13-0 to start the 1987 season. This is Milwaukee's longest winning streak since a nine-game string last April.

Lohse (2-1) gave up four hits and struck out nine in 8 2-3 innings. He fanned five straight in the seventh and eighth innings.

Lohse was pulled with two outs in the ninth after giving up a single to Andrew McCutchen. Will Smith struck out Pedro Alvarez on three pitches to record his first career save.

Charlie Morton (0-1) pitched seven innings as the Pirates lost for the fourth time in five games.

Giants 5, Rockies 4

In San Francisco, Brandon Crawford led off the 10th inning with a splash homer to lift the San Francisco Giants over the Colorado Rockies.

Pablo Sandoval homered and Angel Pagan drove in two runs for the Giants.

Wilin Rosario and Justin Morneau homered for the Rockies, who have lost 15 of their last 18 games in San Francisco.

Crawford turned on the second pitch thrown by Rex Brothers (1-1) and drove it into McCovey Cove for his first career walkoff homer and first splash homer.

Sergio Romo (1-0) pitched a scoreless 10th for the win.

Dodgers 8, Diamondbacks 6

In Phoenix, Adrian Gonzalez homered for the fourth consecutive game and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Arizona Diamondbacks for a three-game sweep.

Gonzalez's three-run shot off Trevor Cahill (0-4) in the third inning gave him 10 RBIs in the series. Matt Kemp and Juan Uribe also homered for the Dodgers.

Dan Haren (2-0) allowed three runs in 5 2-3 innings. Kenley Jansen pitched a perfect ninth for his fourth save.

Mark Trumbo hit a three-run homer and Eric Chavez had a solo shot for the Diamondbacks.

Dee Gordon stole a career-best four bases for the Dodgers.

Braves 10, Nationals 2

In Atlanta, Justin Upton and Freddie Freeman each hit two-run homers off Gio Gonzalez and the Atlanta Braves completed a three-game sweep of the Washington Nationals.

The Braves have won five of six against the Nationals this year.

Washington began the day by placing third baseman Ryan Zimmerman on the 15-day disabled list with a broken right thumb.

Aaron Harang (2-1) allowed one run in six innings. Gonzalez gave up six runs, nine hits and four walks in six innings.

Cardinals 6, Cubs 4

In St. Louis, Matt Carpenter drove in three runs, leading Michael Wacha and the St. Louis Cardinals over the Chicago Cubs.

Carpenter hit a two-run single in the second inning and added a sacrifice fly in the fourth that put St. Louis ahead to stay at 4-3.

Wacha (2-0) allowed three runs and five hits in 6 1-3 innings. Anthony Rizzo hit a two-run homer in the first.

Trevor Rosenthal gave up a run in the ninth, but retired Luis Valbuena and Emilio Bonifacio with the tying runs on base to pick up his fourth save in as many opportunities.

Edwin Jackson (0-1) allowed four runs in six innings.

Phillies 4, Cubs 3

In Philadelphia, Chase Utley extended his fast start with the tiebreaking homer among three hits, and the Philadelphia Phillies finished off a three-game sweep of the Miami Marlins.

The Marlins lost their seventh in a row.

Utley raised his average to .500 through 10 games, with six doubles, three home runs and 10 RBIs. The five-time All-Star, who missed two games with the flu, has a hit in each of his games this season.

Utley broke a 3-all tie with two outs in the eighth by homering off Mike Dunn (0-1).

A.J. Bastardo (1-1) pitched a scoreless eighth for the win. Jonathan Papelbon got his third save.

Padres 5, Tigers 1

In San Diego, Tyson Ross outdueled AL Cy Young Award winner Max Scherzer, and Jedd Gyorko and Xavier Nady homered as the San Diego Padres beat the Detroit Tigers to take two of three.

After two shaky opening starts, Ross (1-2) struck out seven and held the Tigers to one run and six hits in seven innings. He also hit an RBI single.

Scherzer (0-1) allowed four runs and four hits in five innings, struck out 10 and walked three. The Tigers have scored three runs for Scherzer in his three starts.

The Tigers have lost four of six under rookie manager Brad Ausmus, who was working in the Padres' front office when Detroit hired him in November.

Reds 12, Rays 4

In Cincinnati, Chris Heisey hit his first grand slam and Devin Mesoraco homered and drove in career high-tying four runs as the Cincinnati Reds took advantage of Tampa Bay's depleted pitching staff.

The Reds' best offensive showing of the season featured Mesoraco's three-run homer, Joey Votto's two-run shot and Heisey's pinch-hit slam in the eighth. Jay Bruce doubled, walked four times and scored four runs.

Zack Cozart got it going with a bases-loaded double off Cesar Ramos (0-1), making his first start of the season because of injuries.

Tony Cingrani (1-1) got the win. Ben Zobrist homered from both sides of the plate, hitting two-run shots off Cingrani and right-hander Nick Christiani.

The Rays are 3-3 on a trip that has been tough on their rotation. Matt Moore went on the disabled list with a sore elbow on Tuesday, and Alex Cobb joined him Sunday with a strained oblique. Also, reliever Joel Peralta was sick, leaving him unavailable.

IT&E, Falcons bets on top of batting, pitching races

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

IT&E's Philip Kapileo dislodged the Falcons' Justin Cangco from the top spot in the batting race, while the Falcons' Arby Yaguel remained in first place in the pitching contest in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball.

Kapileo posted a batting average of .612 after last April 6's games. He went 19-for-21 at the plate to lead 13 others. Cangco slid to second with his .600 average off an 18-for-30 performance at bat. Kapileo's teammate Spencer Dickinson is in third place after going 22-for-37 and holding a batting average of .594. Also logging batting averages of at least .500 were the Hustlers' Juan Lizama (.571), the Falcons' Angel Iguel (.566), the Red Sox's Kianna Aldan (.566), the Falcons' Aven Evangelista (.550), the Braves' Joe Tudela (.535), the Rockies' Tyrese Camacho (.527), the Braves' Vicente Camacho (.500), and the Little Legals' Pedro Maratita (.500).

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A special runner for the Comets I gets ready at first base during their game against the Rockies in the Major division, which released its latest batting and pitching leaders list in the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday.

Completing the list are IT&E's Christopher Achas (.484), JPO Enforcers' Dennis Cabrera (.483), and Comets I's Frederick Francisco (.482). The batting leaders were based on 28 or more times at bat.

In the pitching contest, which was based on 14 or more innings pitched, Yaguel kept his distance against four others. The Falcons pitcher registered a 0.71 ERA after last April 6 matches, giving up only two runs in 17 innings. He is ahead of the Braves' Robin Sablan (0.78 ERA, 3 runs, 23 innings), the Little Legals' Pedro Maratita (0.80 ERA, 4 runs, 30 innings) and Gloyd Martin (0.94, 3 runs, 19 innings), and the Falcons' Max Pangelinan (0.94 ERA, 3 runs, 19 innings).

In other categories, Tudela and Maratita are tied for the most doubles with seven apiece, just one ahead of Juan Lizama and Dickinson, while Achas is leading in the triples with his five. In the most home runs, Thomas Agulto has three to lead three others, while Cangco is on top of the RBIs chart with 20. The Rockies' Dai Podziewski has the most runs with 25, while Maratita leads in strikeouts with 72.

BUBBA

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four putts, right?'" Watson said.

This was more about great golf than Bubba golf.

Watson kept his poise during an early burst of birdies from 20-year-old Jordan Spieth, turned the tournament in his favor with consecutive two-shot swings to close out the front nine, and coasted to a 3-under 69 to win the Masters by three shots over Spieth and Jonas Blixt of Sweden.

"Small-town guy named Bubba now has two green jackets," Watson said. "It's pretty wild."

Watson made it look routine over the final hour. On a Sunday when Spieth was trying to become the youngest winner in Masters history and 50-year-old Miguel Angel Jimenez had a chance to become the oldest major champion, Watson turned in another masterpiece and joined an elite group as the 17th player to win multiple Masters.

Surprisingly for Augusta, the most compelling action was on the front nine.

His only nervous moment was a drive so mammoth around the corner on the 13th hole that it clipped a few trees and still went some 360 yards, leaving just a sand wedge into the par 5. That was his lone birdie on the back nine. No one got closer than three shots the rest of the way.

"The shot out of the woods made me famous," Watson said. "But this one was a lot better for me and my nerves."

This was nothing like the Masters he won two years ago, especially when it was over.

His wife and newly adopted son were home in Florida in 2012 when Watson made four straight birdies on the back nine and won on the second playoff hole with his great escape out of the trees.

When he tapped in for par on 18, there was 2-year-old Caleb—decked out in a green-and-white striped Masters shirt and green tennis shoes—walking toward him. Watson had tears streaming down his face when he scooped him up, a prize as great as the green jacket.

"Seeing him back there ... what an amazing feeling as a parent," he said. "And then throw on the green jacket on top of it just changes everything."

After high-fiving the crowd on his way to sign his card, Watson returned to Butler Cabin to take back that green jacket after slipping it on Adam Scott a year ago.

"After giving it away last year, I wanted it back," Watson said. "I told Adam we could just swap it back and forth every year."

Spieth could only watch from the side of the green.

He dazzled the massive crowd early by holing out for birdie from the front bunker on No. 4, and making back-to-back birdies to build a two-shot lead through seven holes. Bidding to become the first player in 35 years to win a green jacket in his first try, Spieth looked to be well on his way.

But he three-putted for bogey on No. 8—the first 6 on his card all week—as Watson got up-and-down for birdie to tie for the lead. Spieth then made a rookie mistake, leaving his approach below the flagstick on No. 9 and watching it roll back into the fairway, setting up another bogey and two-shot swing.

Whatever prayer he had might have ended at Amen Corner.

His tee shot on No. 12 found Rae's Creek. He missed a short birdie attempt on the 13th.

Watson was too powerful, too experienced, too tough to beat. Spieth closed with six pars for a 72 and tied for second with Blixt, who never went away but never really threatened. Blixt shot a 71.

"Obviously, I've worked my whole life to lead Augusta on Sunday. And although I feel like it's very early in my career, and I'll have more chances, it's a stinger," Spieth said.

Watson finished at 8-under 280 and goes to a career-best No. 4 in the world.

Jimenez, the ageless wonder from Spain, shot 71 and finished alone in fourth. Matt Kuchar lost a share of the lead with a four-putt double bogey on the fourth hole and never challenged again. He closed with a 74 and tied for fifth with Rickie Fowler (73).

Nine players were separated by three shots at the start of the final round only for this to turn into a two-man show. For the opening two hours, it was anything but dull.

After trading pars on the opening hole, either Watson or Spieth—sometimes both—made birdie or bogey over the next nine holes.

Spieth holed out from a bunker for birdie on the tough par-3 fourth. He made back-to-back birdies with a 12-foot putt on the seventh for a two-shot lead.

Two holes to close out the back nine changed everything. Amen Corner swung the Masters in Watson's favor for good.

Watson won for the second time this year, and his second major puts him at the top of the Ryder Cup standings.

He was guided all week by a simple game plan of hitting fairways and greens, and he was calmed by knowing that regardless of how it turned out, he still had a green jacket. Now he has two of them.

BRAVES

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bottom of the sixth with Tudela and Haini Blas hitting RBI singles.

At the top of the seventh, the Fielders were pressed to score at least three runs to extend the match and they had the opportunity to do so with Quinson Blas and Ton Muna making it to second and first base with two outs. Riungel got the first out, striking out Javon Borja, while second batter Fermin Renguul returned to the Fielders' bench on a 4-3 putout play. The Braves then got the third out, denied the two Fielders from reaching home and secured the pennant after Blas caught a fly ball from Joe Lizama at centerfield.

The Braves victory came after they were stunned by the erstwhile winless Lions, 4-7.

The Lions logged three and four runs in the third and fourth inning to pull off an upset against the Braves and foil the latter's early celebration. Davey Matagolai led the Lions, as he went 3-for-3 at bat and nailed three RBIs. He blasted a two-run triple in the fourth inning and an RBI single in the third. His first at-bat at the bottom of the opening inning resulted in a double.

In other results last week, the Padres tamed the Lions, 8-1, and the latter also suffered a loss to the Fielders in the final game in the regular season, 4-9. The Lions and the Fielders will collide for the right to face the loser of the Braves-Padres tiff this Thursday.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Toronto	47	33	.588	–
x-Brooklyn	44	36	.550	3
New York	35	45	.438	12
Boston	25	55	.313	22
Philadelphia	17	63	.213	30

Southeast Division

y-Miami	54	26	.675	–
x-Washington	42	38	.525	12
x-Charlotte	41	39	.513	13
x-Atlanta	37	43	.463	17
Orlando	23	57	.288	31

Central Division

y-Indiana	55	26	.679	–
x-Chicago	47	33	.588	7½
Cleveland	32	49	.395	23
Detroit	29	52	.358	26
Milwaukee	15	65	.188	39½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

z-San Antonio	62	18	.775	–
x-Houston	53	27	.663	9
x-Dallas	49	32	.605	13½
Memphis	48	32	.600	14
New Orleans	32	48	.400	30

Northwest Division

y-Oklahoma City	58	22	.725	–
x-Portland	53	28	.654	5½
Minnesota	40	40	.500	18
Denver	36	44	.450	22
Utah	24	56	.300	34

Pacific Division

y-L.A. Clippers	56	24	.700	–
x-Golden State	49	31	.613	7
Phoenix	47	33	.588	9
Sacramento	28	53	.346	28½
L.A. Lakers	25	55	.313	31

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
z-clinched conference

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	7	6	.538	–
Tampa Bay	7	6	.538	–
Toronto	7	6	.538	–
Baltimore	5	7	.417	1½
Boston	5	8	.385	2

Central Division

Detroit	6	4	.600	–
Chicago	7	6	.538	½
Minnesota	6	6	.500	1
Cleveland	6	7	.462	1½
Kansas City	4	7	.364	2½

West Division

Oakland	8	4	.667	–
Seattle	6	5	.545	1½
Los Angeles	6	6	.500	2
Texas	6	6	.500	2
Houston	5	8	.385	3½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	8	4	.667	–
Washington	7	5	.583	1
Philadelphia	6	6	.500	2
New York	5	7	.417	3
Miami	5	8	.385	3½

Central Division

Milwaukee	10	2	.833	–
St. Louis	7	5	.583	3
Pittsburgh	6	6	.500	4
Chicago	4	8	.333	6
Cincinnati	4	8	.333	6

West Division

Los Angeles	9	4	.692	–
San Francisco	8	5	.615	1
Colorado	6	7	.462	3
San Diego	5	7	.417	3½
Arizona	4	11	.267	6

MASTERS SCORES

AUGUSTA, Georgia (AP) – Scores Sunday from the Masters, played at the 7,435-yard, par-72 course at Augusta National Golf Club.

FINAL

Bubba Watson	69-68-74-69—280
Jonas Blixt	70-71-71-71—283
Jordan Spieth	71-70-70-72—283
Miguel Angel Jimenez	71-76-66-71—284
Rickie Fowler	71-75-67-73—286
Matt Kuchar	73-71-68-74—286
Lee Westwood	73-71-70-73—287
Bernhard Langer	72-74-73-69—288
Rory McIlroy	71-77-71-69—288
Jimmy Walker	70-72-76-70—288
John Senden	72-68-75-73—288
Kevin Stadler	70-73-72-73—288
Thomas Bjorn	73-68-73-74—288
Stewart Cink	73-72-76-68—289
Jamie Donaldson	73-70-76-70—289
Henrik Stenson	73-72-74-70—289
Chris Kirk	75-72-71-72—289
Adam Scott	69-72-76-72—289
Justin Rose	76-70-69-74—289
Jim Furyk	74-68-72-75—289
Bill Haas	68-78-74-70—290
Jason Day	75-73-70-72—290
Ian Poulter	76-70-70-74—290
Fred Couples	71-71-73-75—290
Louis Oosthuizen	69-75-75-72—291
Joost Luiten	75-73-77-67—292
Steven Bowditch	74-72-74-72—292
Hunter Mahan	74-72-74-72—292
Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano	75-69-74-74—292
Gary Woodland	70-77-69-76—292
Martin Kaymer	75-72-73-73—293
Russell Henley	73-70-75-75—293
Steve Stricker	72-73-73-75—293
Stephen Gallacher	71-72-81-70—294
K.J. Choi	70-75-78-71—294
Jose Maria Olazabal	74-74-73-73—294
Brandt Snedeker	70-74-80-71—295
Brendon de Jonge	74-72-76-73—295
Thongchai Jaidee	73-74-75-73—295
Billy Horschel	75-72-75-73—295
Vijay Singh	75-71-74-75—295
Lucas Glover	75-69-77-75—296
Kevin Streelman	72-71-74-79—296
Mike Weir	73-72-79-73—297
Sandy Lyle	76-72-76-73—297
Nick Watney	72-75-76-74—297
Thorbjorn Olesen	74-72-76-75—297
Darren Clarke	74-74-73-76—297
a-Oliver Goss	76-71-76-75—298
Francesco Molinari	71-76-76-76—299
Larry Mize	74-72-79-79—304

a-amateur

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AMPUTEE

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moving tale happened again in the silver anniversary of Tagaman as the brave Hamada negotiated the course. He timed in at 15:43 in the one-kilometer swim, placing ahead of 24 other swimmers. In the 40K bike, Hamada, who entered the 40 to 49 age group, submitted 1:52:09, which was faster than seven others. He had the slowest time in the 10K run after tallying 2:22:46, but he was undoubtedly the most photographed at the finish line where his wife and daughter waited for him. The Japanese "blade triathlete" even finished ahead of an able participant.

Bucher, Epperson rule divisions

Guam pro Charlie Epperson and seven-time XTERRA Saipan champion Renata Bucher topped the men's and women's divisions of the Tagaman's Olympic distance course.

Epperson cut the tape at the 2:20:58 mark to beat 44 other individual finishers, while Bucher was the second overall finisher with her time of 2:31:06. The Guam pro had split times of 12:08 1:24:37, and 44:13 to beat Japan's Danai Kuangparichat (2:37:26), Korea's Yu Hun Park (2:39:37), Saipan's Peter Prestley (2:42:33) and Nap Dizon (2:43:30), and Guam's Oliver Cerbo (2:44:34).

In the women' division, Bucher, who recorded split times of 12:11, 1:24:13, and 54:42, prevailed against Korea's Eun Keong Sung (2:34:51), and Saipan's Kaitlin Mattos (3:05:13) and Kanae Quinn (3:08:13).

Meanwhile, six other female triathletes completed the Olympic distance course. The list includes Saipan's Amy Sletten (3:00:21), Kathy Ruszala (3:46:58), Shawna Brennfleck (3:33:17), and Lori Hutchison (3:03:47), and Japan's Emi Kawakita (4:11:36) and Kiyomi Watanabe (3:18:31).

In the men's division, 28 others made it to the finish line led by top placers (different age groups) Jerome Diyco (2:47:33), Eric Cooke (3:14:05), Yudai Ono (3:30:49), Jae Yeong Jeong (2:47:32), Shinji Nonomura (2:59:14), John Arceo (3:05:16), Paul Anthony (2:52:09), Manny Sitchon (3:14:05), and Joshua Berger (3:24:43).

Swim Leg of 2014 Tagaman Triathlon

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Guam's Charlie Epperson, Switzerland's Renata Bucher, and Korea's Kaon Cho head out of the waters off Pacific Islands Club.

Charlie Sendin takes a breather as he heads for the second lap of the swim course in last Saturday's Tagaman Triathlon.

Sierra Kuisle is on her second way back to the swim course.

Saipan's Joshua Berger races against Japan's Naoki Nakagawa.

Saipan Swim Club's Rinto Takahashi and Kento Akimaru run to the shore.

A photographer snaps a photo of Saipan's Kimiko McKagan.

Kanae Quinn, left, and Paul Anthony head to the swim-bike transition area.

Jerome Diyco nears completion of the one-lap swim race.

Filipino pro Monica Torres takes a shower before going to the swim-bike transition area.

Peter Prestley heads to the shore.

Pacers hold on to top spot in East by beating OKC

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Nova, Yankees beat Red Sox 3-2 with replay help

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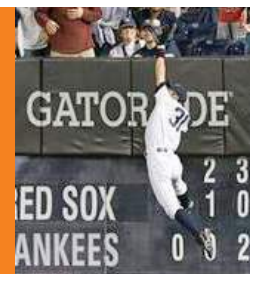

AP

Bubba Watson waves after being presented with his green jacket after winning the Masters golf tournament Sunday, April 13, 2014, in Augusta, Ga.

Bubba Watson wins another green jacket at Augusta

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP GOLF WRITER

One of golf's most exciting players squeezed most of the drama out of the Masters on Sunday. That's just fine with Bubba Watson.

All he cared about was slipping into that green jacket.

Instead of hitting a 40-yard hook out of a forest of Georgia pines—the signature shot in his playoff victory two years ago—the final act Sunday at Augusta National took place on the 18th green. Watson had a three-shot lead and consulted with his caddie on a 15-foot birdie putt.

"I went over to him and I said, `I'm not very good at math, but we've got

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Japan's Miho Hamada celebrates as he nears the finish line of last Saturday's Tagaman Triathlon.

Amputee finishes Tagaman Triathlon

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

An amputee drew the loudest cheers at the finish line of last Saturday's Tagaman Triathlon.

Japan's Miho Hamada, who wears a carbon fibre running blade, completed the Olympic distance race in 4:47:48, leaving those at the finish line snapping photos of him in awe.

"Wow," Jing Bordon exclaimed while shooting footages of Hamada's finish.

"It's very inspiring," said J.M. Guerrero, one of the founders of Tagaman.

It was not the first time that Tagaman lured a participant with special needs, as Japanese Hirotaka Sugimoto, who was blind, did the race in 1989, while tied to his guide. The then 69-year-old's

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Braves bag Big League pennant

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The NSA Braves earned a pennant-clinching 5-2 win over the Fielders in the Big League division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Braves finished the three-round robin regular season with a 9-3 record, just one win ahead of defending champions Padres (8-4). The Top 2 finishers square off today with the winner marching into the finals first and the loser playing the victor of the Fielders (5-7) and Lions (1-11) rubber match for the second and last finals ticket.

Ricky Joe Riungel found his rhythm in the second inning after allowing three early hits and two earned runs at the top of the first to lift the Braves to the win. Riungel, who pitched in all seven innings, gave up only one hit, walked two, and struck out eight in the last six.

The Braves pitcher also scored one of the first two runs of the Braves at the bottom of the second. He and second baseman K.J. Kalen made it home off a double from leftfielder Frankie Norita to force a deadlock. Norita then broke the tie and put the Braves on top when he also scored off a single from designated hitter Ray Tudela.

The Braves kept the shaky lead in the next four innings, as Riungel, who gave up RBI singles to Khobby Kaipat and David Ada in the first inning, played steady on the mound. The Braves' advantage was then stretched to three at the

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Braves pitcher warms up before their game against the Fielders in the Big League division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.